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HOMEMAKERS' ESTIMATES OF how long food on hand could be made to last

A Civil Defense Study

ted States Department of Agriculture • Statistical Reporting Service • Marketing Research Report 669

PREFACE

This study, conducted at the request of the Department of Defense, provides estimates made by homemakers of the length of time that food stocks on hand in their homes could be made to last if an emergency should cut them off from outside sources of food supplies. Other aspects of the food supply problem have been discussed in the following Economic Research Service publications:

Estimated Number of Days' Supply of Food and Beverages in Retail Stores. Marketing Research Report No. 577, December 1962.

Inventory of Food Products and Beverages in Retail Food Stores. Supplement to Marketing Research Report No. 286, April 1960.

Estimated Number of Days' Supply of Food and Beverages in Warehouses at Wholesale. Marketing Research Report No. 632, October 1963.

Inventory of Food Products and Beverages in Warehouses at Wholesale. Supplement to Marketing Research Report No. 632, February 1964.

A forthcoming study in this group will cover food and beverage supplies in away-from-home eating establishments.

Funds for the present study were provided by the Office of Civil Defense, Department of Defense. The study was designed and the results were analyzed by the Special Surveys Branch, Statistical Reporting Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Bureau of the Census collected the data and provided basic tabulations.

The report was prepared under the general direction of Trienah Meyers. Margaret Weidenhamer was the study director. She was assisted by Harold Linstrom, Carle Graffunder, and Elizabeth Watters. Representatives of the following offices in the Department of Agriculture helped plan the study: Defense Mobilization Planning, Office of the Secretary; Consumer and Food Economics Research Division, Agricultural Research Service; Defense Services Staff, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service; Special Services Division, Agricultural Marketing Service.

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Washington, D.C. July 1964

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HOMEMAKERS' ESTIMATES OF HOW LONG FOOD ON HAND COULD BE MADE TO LAST

A Civil Defense Study

Special Surveys Branch
Standards and Research Division
Statistical Reporting Service

HIGHLIGHTS

Based on the estimates of homemakers interviewed in June 1962, if an emergency should cut off outside food supplies, large numbers of American households would be unable to exist on food stocks on hand for more than a few days. Nearly a third of the homemakers who participated in the survey thought that they would run out of the food then in their homes in about a week or less. Close to another third reported that they could stretch their food supplies to last more than a week, but not more than 2 weeks. The remaining respondents estimated that their supplies would last more than 2 weeks.

Taking into account possible seasonal variations in food stocks on hand and the fact that the actual conduct of homemakers under conditions of stress may not precisely follow the estimates of those surveyed, certain aspects of the survey answers still appear to have clear implications for Civil Defense planning.

Although these are generalizations based upon a sample survey and subject to the usual limitations of sample data, they are nevertheless suitable guides for overall planning. For example, dwellers in congested areas appear to be more prone to rapid food depletion than householders in less populous parts of the country. Greater proportions of respondents living in Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, especially in the central city parts of those areas, reported expectations of exhausting food supplies after relatively short periods of time than respondents living outside SMSA's. Homemakers in multiple-unit structures were generally less optimistic than those in single-unit structures about the length of time their current food stocks could be made to last. However, very wide variation in food storage practices was reported. In each group large enough to have national or regional significance, estimates of the length of time the food on hand would last ranged from over a month to less than a day. This was true in highly urbanized areas and in rural ones, in single dwellings and in multiple dwellings, and in all Civil Defense Regions.

Part of the variation in food depletion pattern is apparently due to income differences, even though the wide range of replies mentioned above appeared in all income groups. Estimates of the number of days food would last tended to be higher in households in the higher income groups.

Homemakers in the northeastern section of the country reported the fastest rate of food depletion expected, followed by those in the southeastern section. The least rapid rate was reported by homemakers in the northwestern area.

Within Civil Defense Regions, patterns of food depletion tended to follow the U.S. pattern. Residents of SMSA's generally were less optimistic about food depletion than nonresidents; lower income groups were inclined to shorter estimates of the length of time they could make food stocks last than those in higher income groups. There was, however, considerable variation in the general level of food depletion patterns from one region to another. Areas of high population concentration or relatively low average personal income tended to have more rapid food depletion curves than other areas.

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURE

Early in 1962, the Office of Civil Defense requested that the Department of Agriculture conduct a survey to estimate the number of days' supply of food on hand in households in the United States. Such information is needed by civil defense officials in planning distribution of food to the civilian population in the event of an emergency.

Information was obtained by means of a questionnaire administered by the Bureau of the Census in conjunction with the Current Population Survey (CPS) of June 1962. The sample used was composed of three out of eight rotation groups included in the CPS for that month. Each rotation group is designed as a sample of the Nation, which permits use of one or more of the groups to yield a representative sample of "occupied housing units" (households) in the U. S. 1/ CPS enumerators were instructed to obtain answers to the questionnaire in person from the homemaker, the individual with major responsibility for buying and preparing food, in each of the assigned households. (See technical notes.)

Most of the respondents were interviewed during the week of June 18, 1962; some of them were interviewed during the early part of the following week. Personal interviews were obtained from 9 out of 10 respondents, but telephone interviews were used where necessary in order to achieve a maximum completion rate. An excellent completion rate was achieved. Data were obtained for more than 11,000 households, or about 93 percent of the sample. The remaining 7 percent included those households where repeated visits or telephone calls by the

1/ According to the Census definition, a household includes all of the persons who occupy a house, an apartment, or other group of rooms, or a room, which constitutes a housing unit under the 1960 Census rules. A housing unit is a group of rooms or a single room when it is occupied as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters means that the occupants do not live and eat with any other person in the structure and that there is either (1) direct access from the outside or through a common hall, or (2) a kitchen or cooking equipment for the exclusive use of the occupants. The count of households excludes occupied quarters which do not qualify as housing units. Nonqualifying quarters are located most frequently in institutions, rooming and boarding houses, rooms in hotels which are occupied principally by transients, military and other barracks, college dormitories, monasteries, and similar places. They may also be located in a house or apartment in which the living quarters are shared by the head and 5 or more persons unrelated to him.

enumerators failed to locate the homemaker, or where the homemaker was unable or unwilling to be interviewed. Vacant housing units are not included in this compilation.

In the key questions of the survey, homemakers were asked to estimate the number of days the food currently on hand would last if all household members were at home all the time and were eating the kind of meals they usually eat. Homemakers were then asked how many more days, if any, they thought this food could be made to last if household members ate only enough to get by on. (See comments on methodology in the Technical Notes.) The estimates used in this report were obtained by combining the answers to these two questions. Respondents were not requested to inspect their food supplies in order to make estimates; pretesting experience indicated that most women felt they knew what food was on hand and were therefore reluctant to check. Usable estimates were obtained from 98 percent of the respondents.

When making their "usual meal" estimates, homemakers tended to give stereotyped responses, such as 7 and 14 days. The combined estimates of the total number of days food could be stretched appear to be less stereotyped, although peaks still exist. We have concentrated on the combined "stretch" estimate, since that concept seems to be more meaningful for Civil Defense needs, and the responses appeared to have been more thoughtful.

It must be kept in mind that these estimates of how long food on hand would last represent only the opinions of homemakers about actions under hypothetical conditions. It is unlikely that many American housewives have ever been confronted with an occasion when they "could not get any more food for awhile" without ample warning.

Moreover, the responses apply only to the specific time period during which the information was gathered; no account has been taken of possible seasonal variations in food stocks on hand.

Note on Sampling Variability

Since the figures in this report are based on sample data, they are subject to the variations that occur by chance because a sample rather than the entire population was surveyed. The magnitude of the sampling error varies with the size of the percentage being estimated and the number of cases upon which the percentage is based. The table below presents approximations of sampling variability for selected percentages. (Approximations were required in order to derive, at moderate cost, calculations of sampling errors that are applicable to the wide range of items in this report.) Systematic biases which might occur in the data are not taken into account.

To illustrate the use of the table: Two percent of the 1,006 homemakers in the sample who reported family income of $10,000 and over estimated that they would run out of the food on hand in 2 days or less. A direct reading from the table below shows that the error for an estimate of 2 percent of roughly 1,000 respondents is 0.8. In other words, the chances are about 68 in 100 that a complete census would show that the percentage of households with income of $10,000 and over who would anticipate complete food depletion in 2

days or less would be between about 1 and 3 percent. The chances are about 95 in 100 that a complete census would show the estimated percentage between 0 and 4 percent. Other values are obtainable by interpolation.

Standard error of estimated percentage, shown in percentage points

Estimated percentage	Number of respondents on which percentage is based						
	100	250	500	1,000	2,500	5,000	11,368
	(in percentage points)						
2 or 98	2.5	1.6	1.1	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.2
5 or 95	3.8	2.4	1.7	1.2	.8	.5	.4
10 or 90	5.3	3.3	2.3	1.7	1.1	.7	.5
25 or 75	7.6	4.8	3.4	2.4	1.5	1.1	.7
50	8.8	5.5	3.9	2.8	1.8	1.2	.8

RESULTS FOR THE NATION

Nearly a third of U. S. homemakers interviewed estimated that they would be out of food supplies in about a week or less if food supplies were to be cut off suddenly. About half of this group thought they could stretch the food on hand through 6 to 8 days, and the other half was split approximately evenly between those who thought their food could be made to last only 3 days or less and those who mentioned 4 or 5 days.

Close to another third of homemakers in the sample households thought that they would be completely without food supplies within about 2 weeks; about half of them after 9 to 12 days, and the other half at the end of about 2 weeks (13 to 15 days).

The remaining respondents (about one-third) thought that they would have enough food on hand to last for periods ranging from 16 days to over a month. All these statements are based on the estimates made by the representative sample of homemakers when they were asked how long the food they had on hand could be made to last if the people in their households were given only enough to get by on.

As might be expected, the families with short food supplies were not evenly distributed throughout the population. It was found that the 1- and 2-week cumulative figures provide a simple and effective indicator of major variations in food depletion patterns. Accordingly, discussions of the more significant types of variation contained in this report have generally been limited to these two time periods. (More data are included in the detailed tables.)

Variation in Food Depletion Pattern

Degree of Urbanization

Dwellers in the central city portions of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas[2/] (32 percent of the population and 35 percent of the households of the U. S. in 1960) would generally run out of food more quickly than households in peripheral areas within SMSA's, or outside SMSA's. However, food storage practices vary widely among the families who reside in areas of any given degree of urbanization. For example, even though central city dwellers, on the average, tended to have fewer days' food supply on hand than their counterparts in less congested areas, more than a quarter of them had food stocks estimated at better than a 2-week supply, if stretched.

In each type of urbanization area, there were numerous families who estimated that they would be able to make their food stocks last beyond a 2-week period. In each type also, there were many who replied they would not be able to feed themselves more than about a week, if they had to depend on supplies already in the home (fig. 1). There was relatively little variation between areas of different degrees of urbanization in the proportion of families who could last more than 1 week but not more than about 2 weeks from the time when outside food supplies were cut off. As will be seen later, this proportion also remained relatively stable between different income groups.

The proportion of families whose food stocks were so low that they would run out of food in a week or less merits careful study, since they would be of most immediate concern in an emergency. It is in this group that the greatest

---

2/ The definition of an individual Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) involves two considerations: First, a city or cities of specified population to constitute the central city and to identify the county in which it is located as the central county; and second, economic and social relationships with contiguous counties which are metropolitan in character, so that the periphery of the specific metropolitan area may be determined. The criteria of metropolitan character relate primarily to the attributes of the county as a place of work or as a home for a concentration of nonagricultural workers.

Every city of 50,000 inhabitants or more, according to the 1960 Census of Population, is included in an SMSA. If two such cities are within 20 miles of each other, they will be included in the same SMSA unless there is conclusive evidence that the two are not economically and socially integrated. In addition, two cities with contiguous boundaries, a combined population of at least 50,000 (the smaller at least 15,000), and which constitute for general economic and social purposes a single community are defined as the "central city" portion of an SMSA. SMSA's may cross State lines and may include peripheral areas classified as rural.

For additional information about SMSA's, see: Bureau of the Budget. Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Washington: 1961.

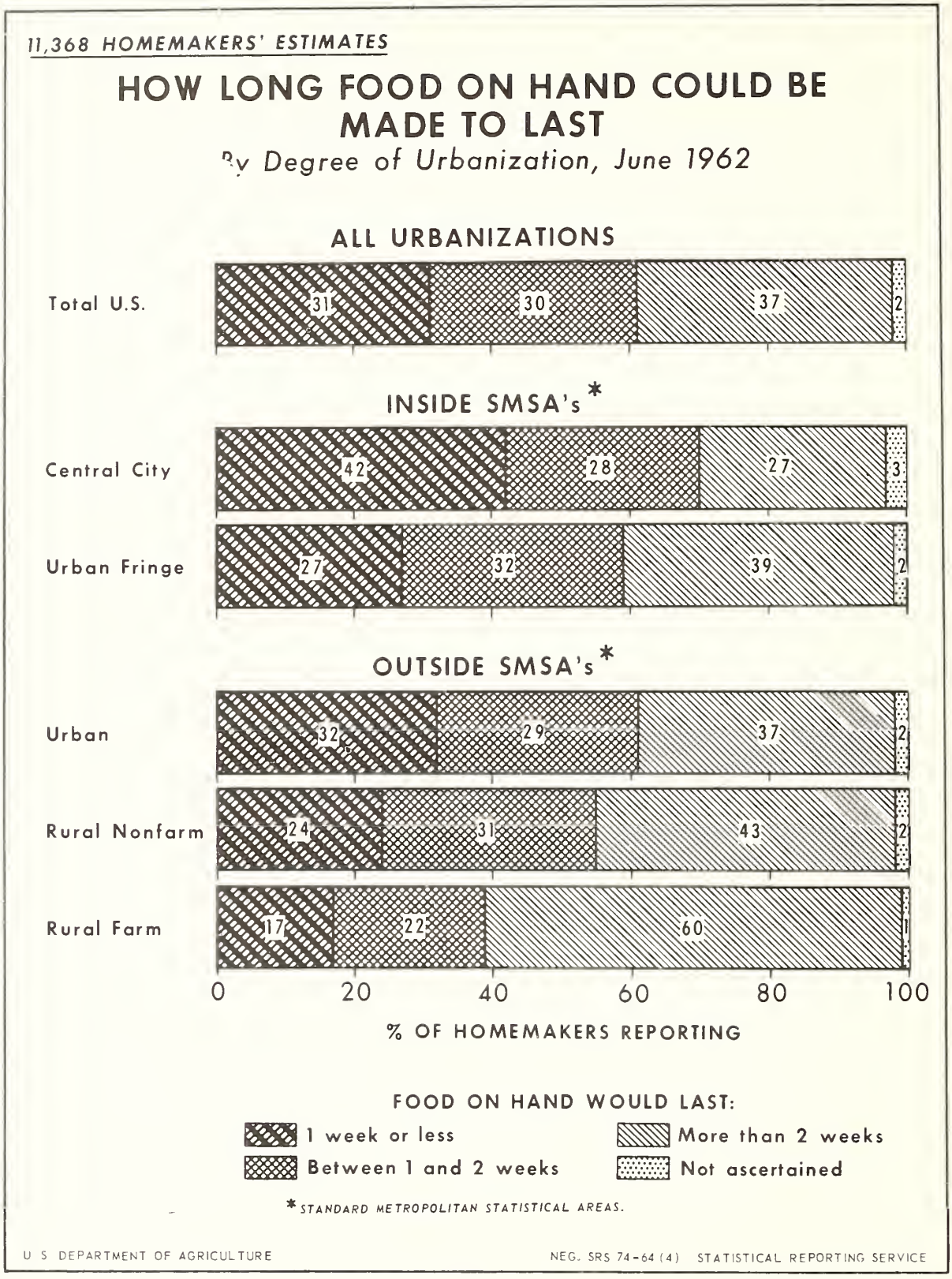
11,368 HOMEMAKERS' ESTIMATES
HOW LONG FOOD ON HAND COULD BE MADE TO LAST
By Degree of Urbanization, June 1962
ALL URBANIZATIONS
Total U.S.
31
30
37
2
INSIDE SMSA's *
Central City
42
28
27
3
Urban Fringe
27
32
39
2
OUTSIDE SMSA's *
Urban
32
29
37
2
Rural Nonfarm
24
31
43
2
Rural Farm
17
22
60
1
0
20
40
60
80
100
% OF HOMEMAKERS REPORTING
FOOD ON HAND WOULD LAST:
1 week or less
Between 1 and 2 weeks
More than 2 weeks
Not ascertained
* STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS.
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Figure 1

difference between urban and rural areas occurs. In the central city portions of SMSA's, 42 percent of the families expected to run out of food within a week. By way of contrast, only 27 percent of homemakers in the urban fringe portions of SMSA's and only 26 percent living outside SMSA's replied that they would run out of food within about a week. At the end of 2 weeks, 70 percent of the families in the central city and 59 percent in the urban fringe inside SMSA's would have exhausted their food supplies, while 54 percent of families outside SMSA's thought they also would be without food.

Families living in structures which contain more than one housing unit (about a fourth of all families) indicated that they would run out of food more quickly than those living in single-family homes. This was true for households outside, as well as inside, SMSA's. But as might be expected from the urbanization analysis, the most rapid depletion of food stocks would occur in multiple-family dwellings in the central city portions of SMSA's. The following table shows the extent of the variation between single- and multiple-unit structures by degree of urbanization. (See tables 1, 2, and 3.)

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last, by type of housing:

	U.S. total	Inside SMSA's		Outside SMSA's
		Central city	Urban fringe	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All households				
About 1 week or less	31	42	27	26
About 2 weeks or less	61	70	59	54
Households in single-unit structures				
About 1 week or less	27	35	26	24
About 2 weeks or less	57	65	57	53
Households in multiple-unit structures				
About 1 week or less	43	49	34	35
About 2 weeks or less	74	76	71	67

Since the great majority of multiple-unit structures are located inside SMSA's, particularly in central city portions, the analyses by degree of urbanization reflect the differences in food depletion patterns of single- vs. multiple-unit structures to a large degree. For this reason, there are no further analyses by type of structure in this report.

Family Income

Another clue as to the characteristics of households which may be expected to run out of food relatively rapidly, according to the findings of this survey, is contained in the income group analysis. Lower income families may be expected to run out of food supplies at a faster rate than those in higher income groups. Where family income was reported to be less than $4,000 a year, 38

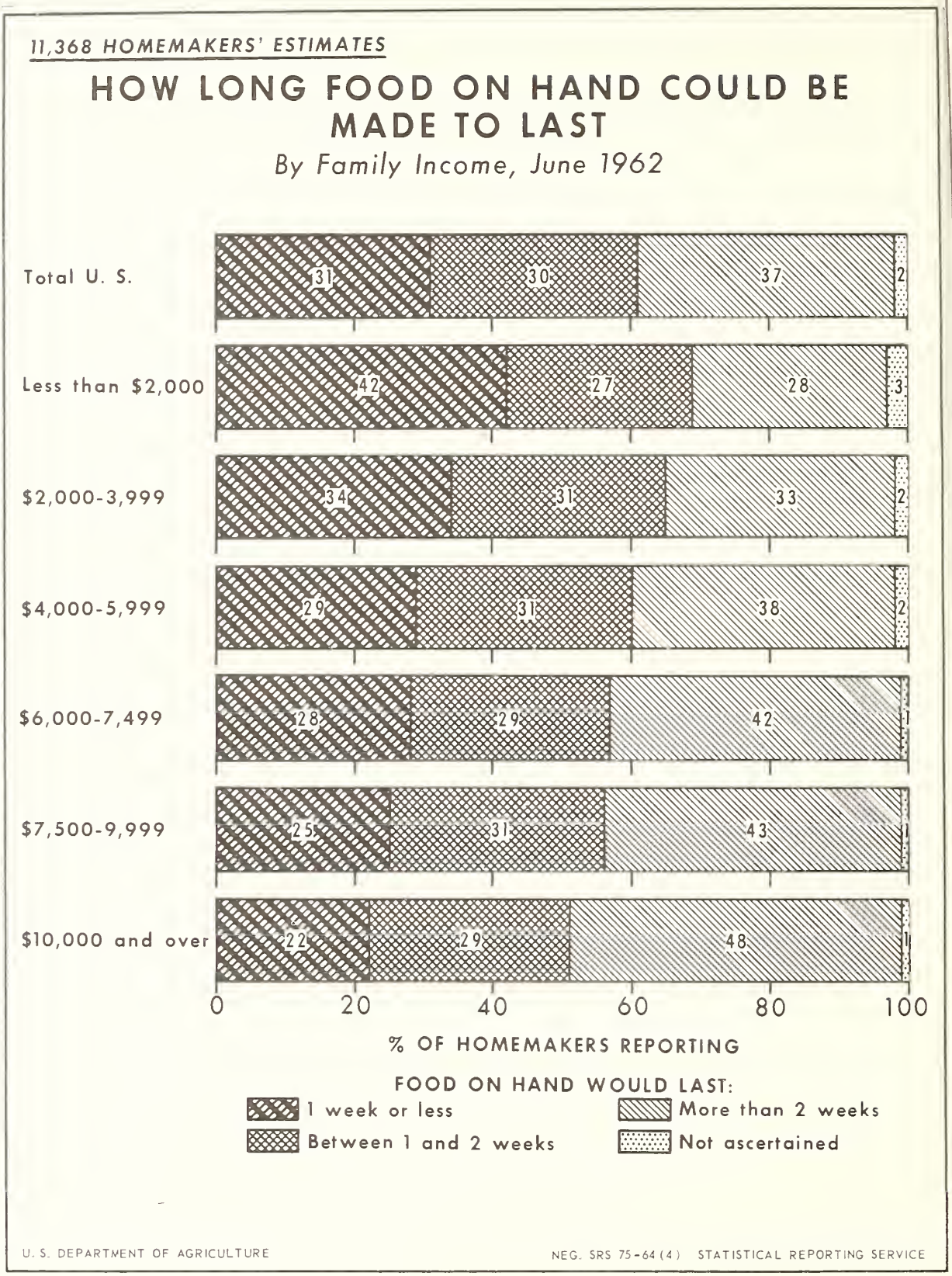
11,368 HOMEMAKERS' ESTIMATES
HOW LONG FOOD ON HAND COULD BE MADE TO LAST
By Family Income, June 1962
Total U. S.
31
30
37
2
Less than $2,000
42
27
28
3
$2,000-3,999
34
31
33
2
$4,000-5,999
29
31
38
2
$6,000-7,499
28
29
42
1
$7,500-9,999
25
31
43
1
$10,000 and over
22
29
48
1
0
20
40
60
80
100
% OF HOMEMAKERS REPORTING
FOOD ON HAND WOULD LAST:
1 week or less
Between 1 and 2 weeks
More than 2 weeks
Not ascertained
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Figure 2

percent of the homemakers estimated that the food on hand would last only about a week or less. On the other hand, only 26 percent of the homemakers whose family income was $4,000 or over reported food stocks which would be depleted in this length of time.

The percentage of homemakers who expected their food stocks to last only a week or less declined as income increased (fig. 2). However, the proportion who estimated that their supplies would run out somewhere between 9 or 10 days and 2 weeks showed relatively slight variation between income groups (table 4). Since education is closely correlated with income, the analysis of food depletion rates by educational attainment of homemakers produced no unexpected results. Housewives with little or no schooling anticipated much more rapid exhaustion of their food supplies than did those who had attended high school or college (table 5).

Civil Defense Region

Homemakers' estimates by Civil Defense Region bear out the expectation of regional differences suggested by variations in food depletion patterns by degree of urbanization and by family income.

Households in Regions 1 and 3 showed a food exhaustion rate noticeably higher than that for the other regions (fig. 3). Lowest rate was shown by

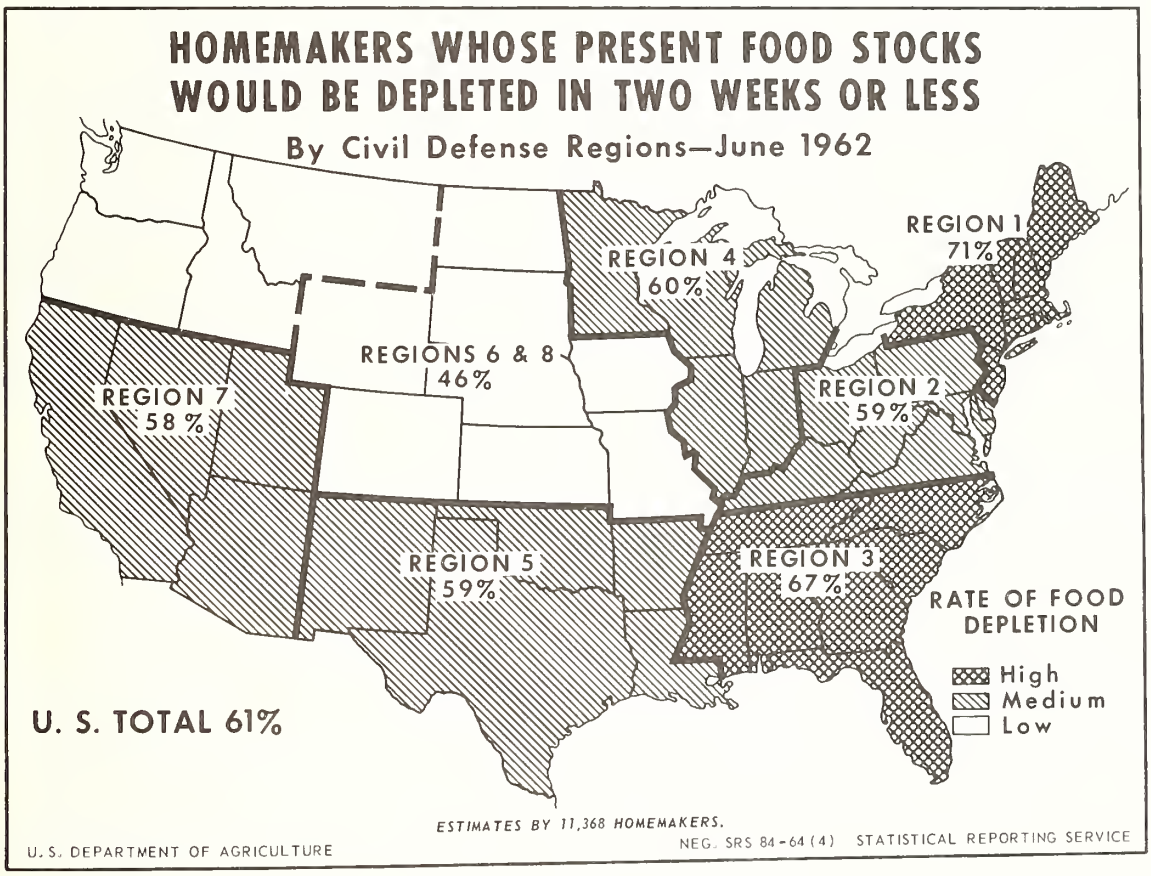

Figure 3

Regions 6 and 8. These regions were combined for intraregion analyses because of close similarities in food exhaustion patterns and because too few interviews were completed to provide reliable data for Region 8 individually. The relatively few interviews in Region 8 resulted from the small proportion of households located in this region, as illustrated in the following tabulation.

Civil Defense Region	Proportion of U.S. households	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last-- About 1 week or less	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last-- About 2 weeks or less
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Region 1	19	40	71
Region 2	19	30	59
Region 3	13	36	67
Region 4	17	31	60
Region 5	10	28	59
Region 6	8	18	44
Region 7	11	29	58
Region 8	3	16	48
Regions 6 and 8 combined	(11)	(18)	(46)
All households	100	31	61

Condensed from table 6.
Further details of the regional analyses are discussed later in this report.

Other Characteristics of Household

In addition to analyses already mentioned, careful examination was made of the survey data by several other family characteristics, such as age of homemaker and frequency of main shopping trips. Although some variations in food depletion rates were observed, none of them appeared to be of sufficient interest to warrant further analysis. Food depletion patterns on a national basis, in terms of these additional family characteristics, are discussed in the paragraphs that follow.

By Size of Household--Homemakers' estimates indicated that very small and very large households would tend to run out of food more rapidly than those in the middle size range. The tabulation that follows, condensed from table 7, shows the variation in food depletion rates by size of household.

According to the 1960 Census of Housing, about three-fourths of U. S. households consist of from 2 to 5 persons. Consequently, the number of 1-person households and large families represented in this sample is relatively small. This precludes further detailed analyses by the significant family size groups. Fortunately, on a nationwide basis, the effect of the very small and the large households on the estimates obtained tended to balance out when considered from the standpoint of the total number of people involved. For the U. S. as a whole, conversion of estimates of food supplies from the basis of households in the sample to a distribution by the number of persons in each of the households showed practically no change in the food depletion pattern (table 25).

Size of household	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last-- About 1 week or less	About 2 weeks or less
	Percent	Percent
1 person	38	66
2 persons	29	59
3 persons	30	60
4 persons	28	59
5 persons	30	60
6 persons	33	62
7 persons	35	64
8 persons	41	67
9 or more persons	48	75
All households	31	61

By Age of Homemaker--Older homemakers anticipated a slightly faster rate of food depletion than was expected by their younger counterparts, as seen in the tabulation that follows and table 8.

Age of homemaker	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last-- About 1 week or less	About 2 weeks or less
	Percent	Percent
Under 30 years	29	60
30 to 39 years	31	60
40 to 49 years	29	58
50 to 59 years	31	61
60 to 69 years	34	63
70 years or over	35	67
All households	31	61

Most homemakers are in the younger age brackets. It was therefore believed that further analysis by age of homemaker would not show appreciable differences in food depletion patterns.

By Presence or Absence of Children--The food depletion pattern of households with children under 14 years of age was little different from that of households without children (table 9). The cumulative effect at 1 or 2 weeks is much the same as shown below:

Type of household	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last-- About 1 week or less	About 2 weeks or less
	Percent	Percent
Households with children	31	60
Households without children	32	61
All households	31	61

By Day of Week Interview Took Place--Two thirds of the homemakers interviewed reported that they tended to shop for food once a week. (The question specified "main shopping, not just picking up a few things.") The remainder was divided almost equally between those who generally shopped more often than once a week and those who usually shopped for groceries at longer intervals. Because of the preponderance of once-a-week shoppers and because the latter part of the week is the busiest time in most food stores, it was thought that the day of the week on which the interview was conducted might have a pronounced effect on homemakers' estimates of how long the food they had on hand could be made to last. However, it made very little difference (table 10). Possibly, the stereotyped answer of numbers of days may have contributed to this outcome. It is also possible that many households have enough food on hand at all times to minimize the influence of the day of the week on such estimates.

RESULTS FOR CIVIL DEFENSE REGIONS

States are located in Civil Defense Regions as follows:

Region 1	Region 2	Region 3
Connecticut	Delaware	Alabama
Maine	District of Columbia	Florida
Massachusetts	Kentucky	Georgia
New Hampshire	Maryland	Mississippi
New Jersey	Ohio	North Carolina
New York	Pennsylvania	South Carolina
Rhode Island	Virginia	Tennessee
Vermont	West Virginia	

Region 4	Region 5	Region 6
Illinois	Arkansas	Colorado
Indiana	Louisiana	Iowa
Michigan	New Mexico	Kansas
Minnesota	Oklahoma	Missouri
Wisconsin	Texas	Nebraska
		North Dakota
		South Dakota
Region 7	Region 8	Wyoming
Arizona	Alaska	
California	Idaho	
Hawaii	Montana	
Nevada	Oregon	
Utah	Washington	

As has already been mentioned, households in Regions 1 and 3 show a food exhaustion rate that is noticeably higher than that for the other regions. The lowest rate occurs in Regions 6 and 8, which were combined for intraregional analyses (fig. 4 and table 6).3/

3/ See p. 10 for explanation.

11,368 HOMEMAKERS' ESTIMATES

HOW LONG FOOD ON HAND COULD BE MADE TO LAST

By Civil Defense Regions, June 1962

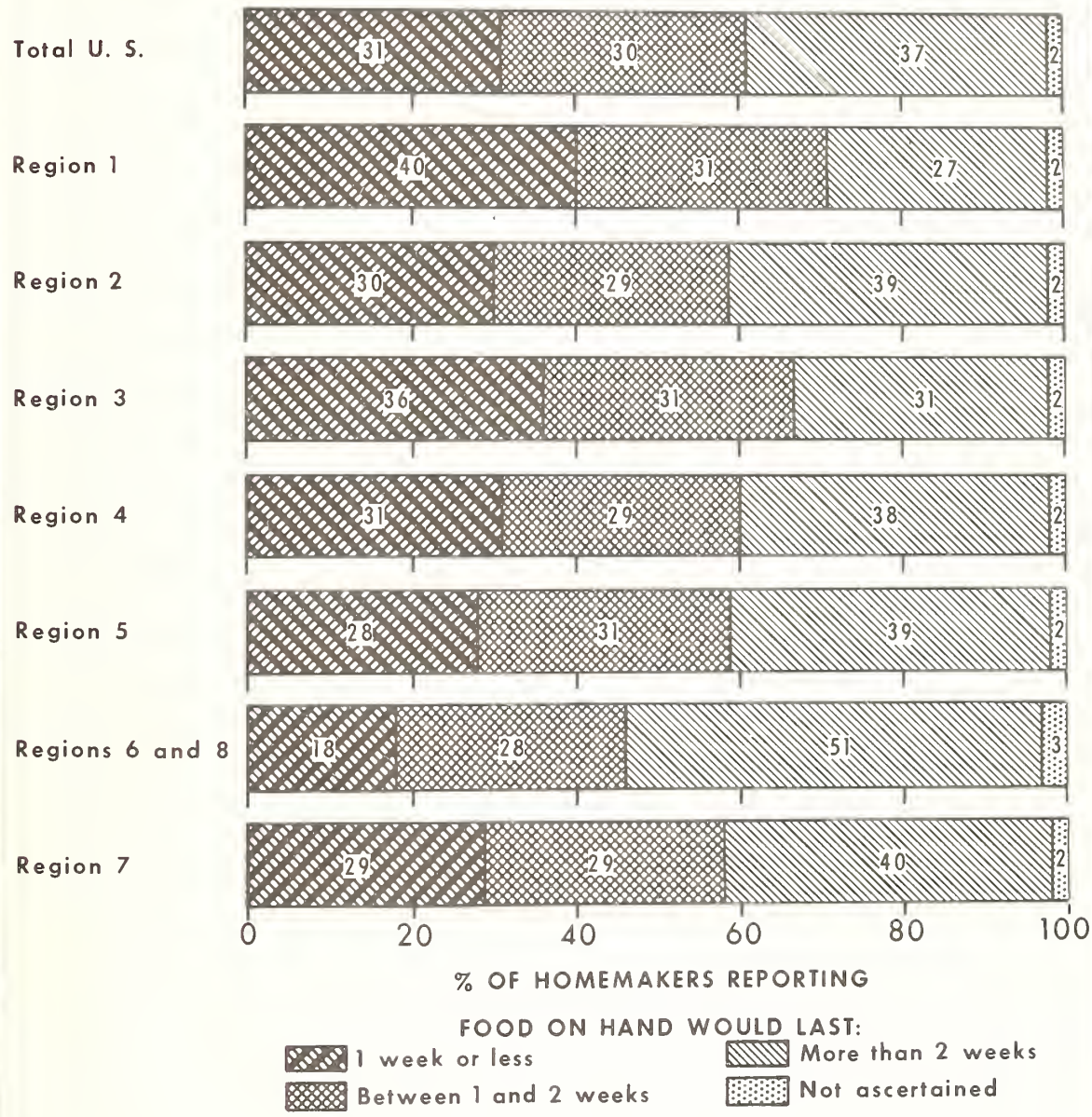

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Figure 4

Despite regional differences, certain patterns that were observed in the national estimates for food depletion also appeared in each region. For example, homemakers living inside Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas in each region, without exception, reported higher expected rates of food depletion than housewives living outside SMSA's, although there was considerable variation from region to region. The proportion of U.S. households located in SMSA's is very high and population density is high in large parts of these areas; therefore, the large percentage of homemakers inside SMSA's in each region who expected their food stocks to be exhausted in about 2 weeks or less is particularly worth noting (fig. 5).

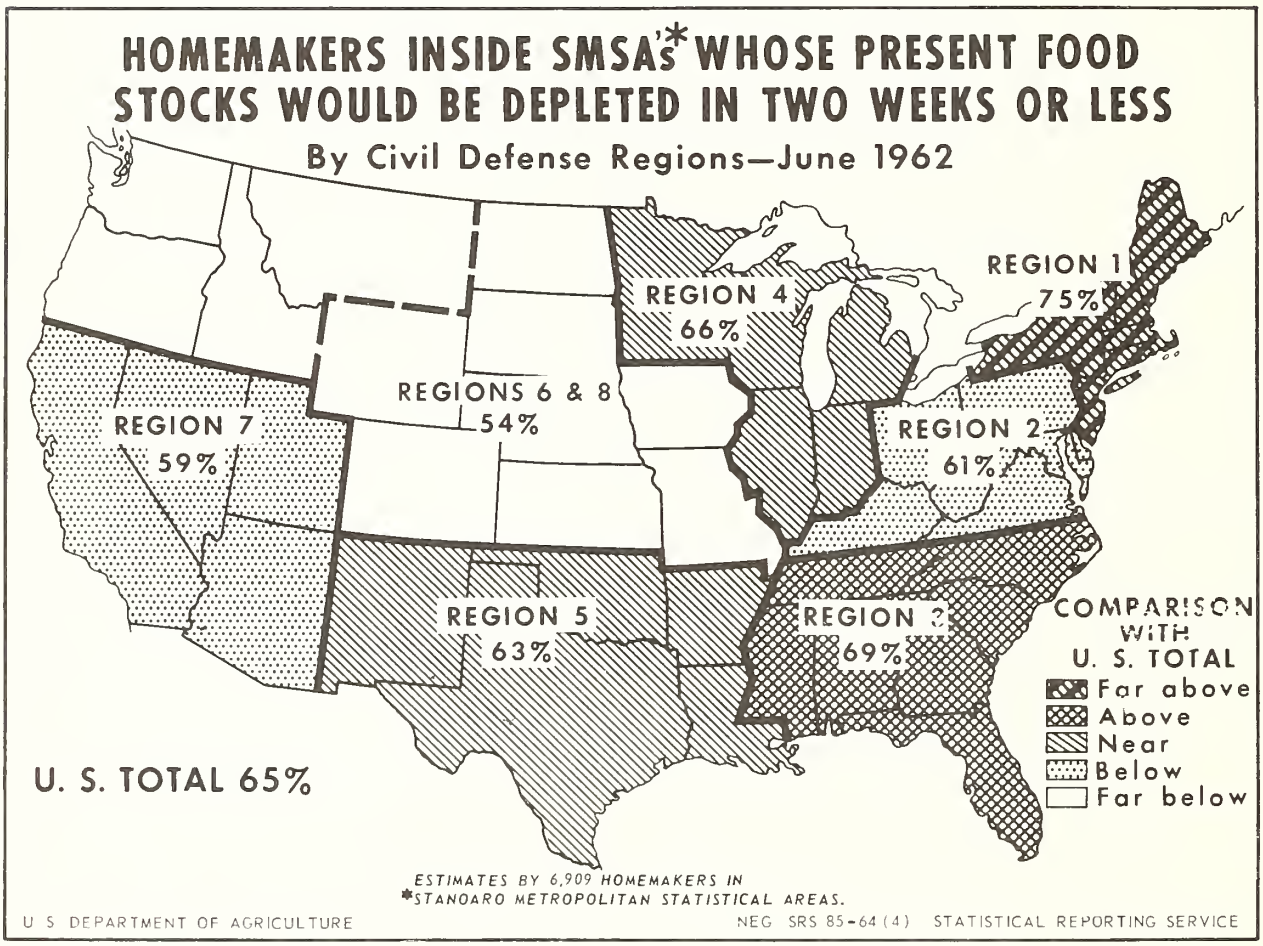

Figure 5

Homemakers' estimates by regions and location inside and outside SMSA's were as follows:

Location of households	Proportion of households, 1960[1/]	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last-- About 1 week or less	About 2 weeks or less
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Inside SMSA's: U.S. total	64	35	65
Region 1	81	44	75
Region 2	67	32	61
Region 3	43	35	69
Region 4	65	34	66
Region 5	52	29	63
Regions 6 and 8	45	26	54
Region 7	85	30	59
Outside SMSA's: U. S. total	36	26	54
Region 1	29	27	58
Region 2	33	25	55
Region 3	57	37	65
Region 4	35	24	50
Region 5	48	28	58
Regions 6 and 8	55	13	40
Region 7	15	23	55

1/ Based on U. S. Census of Housing 1960.

More detailed information on food depletion inside and outside SMSA's for the Nation and by regions is in tables 1, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23.

Although the level of food depletion patterns by income groups varied from one region to another, higher income homemakers in any one of the regions expected a slower rate of food depletion than lower income homemakers in the same region.

The individual regions are discussed in the section that follows.

Household Food Stocks

Civil Defense Region 1

In the event of an emergency which would stop the movement of food supplies into homes, the rate of food exhaustion in Civil Defense Region 1 (the New England States, New York, and New Jersey) could be expected to be higher than that for the country as a whole (fig. 13). For example, when asked how long the food they had on hand could be made to last if the people in their households were given only enough to get by on, 71 percent of the respondents in this area estimated that their stocks would be depleted within about 2 weeks. This compares with 61 percent of homemakers in the country as a whole who expected to run out of food completely within the 2-week period. The Region 1 estimate was also higher than that reported in any other Civil Defense Region.

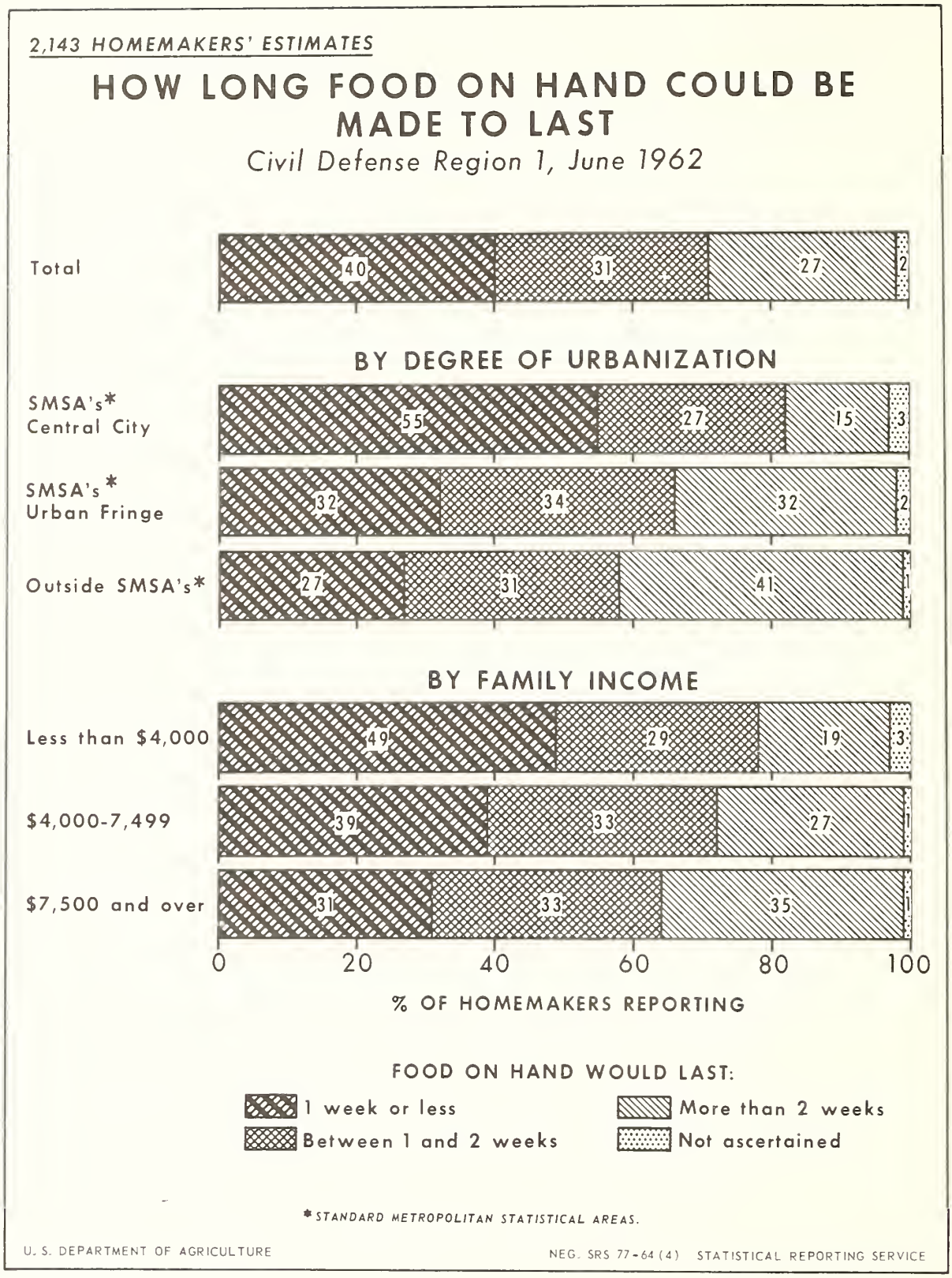
2,143 HOMEMAKERS' ESTIMATES
HOW LONG FOOD ON HAND COULD BE MADE TO LAST
Civil Defense Region 1, June 1962
Total
40
31
27
2
BY DEGREE OF URBANIZATION
SMSA's* Central City
55
27
15
3
SMSA's* Urban Fringe
32
34
32
2
Outside SMSA's*
27
31
41
1
BY FAMILY INCOME
Less than $4,000
49
29
19
3
$4,000-7,499
39
33
27
1
$7,500 and over
31
33
35
1
0
20
40
60
80
100
% OF HOMEMAKERS REPORTING
FOOD ON HAND WOULD LAST:
1 week or less
Between 1 and 2 weeks
More than 2 weeks
Not ascertained
* STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Figure 6

Following the U. S. pattern, a greater proportion of homemakers in the central city portions of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas expected to run out of food within the 2-week period than did those in the urban fringe. More of the urban fringe homemakers, in turn, expected to run out within about 2 weeks than did their counterparts outside SMSA's (fig. 6). In each case, however, homemakers in Region 1 reported a higher rate of food exhaustion than their counterparts in the country as a whole. There was no significant difference, though, between Region 1 homemakers outside SMSA's and others not included in metro-areas until after the first week.

	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
	U. S.	Region 1	U. S.	Region 1
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Households inside SMSA's	35	44	65	75
Central city	42	55	70	82
Urban fringe	27	32	59	66
Households outside SMSA's	26	27	54	58
All households	31	40	61	71

A greater proportion of homemakers in the higher income groups expected to be able to make their food supplies last longer than 2 weeks than homemakers in the lower income groups (fig. 6). In this respect, Region 1 also follows the U. S. pattern, except that homemakers in Region 1 were generally less optimistic about the length of time their food could be made to last than respondents representing all parts of the country.

	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
Family income	U. S.	Region 1	U. S.	Region 1
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Less than $4,000 a year	38	49	67	78
$4,000 to $7,499 a year	28	39	59	72
$7,500 and over a year	23	31	54	64
All households	31	40	61	71

From tables 11 and 12.

Civil Defense Region 2

According to the estimates of homemakers in Civil Defense Region 2 (Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Ohio), their households would be better off should food supplies to homes be suddenly cut off than their neighbors to the north and south. In this region 59 percent of homemakers reported that their household food stocks

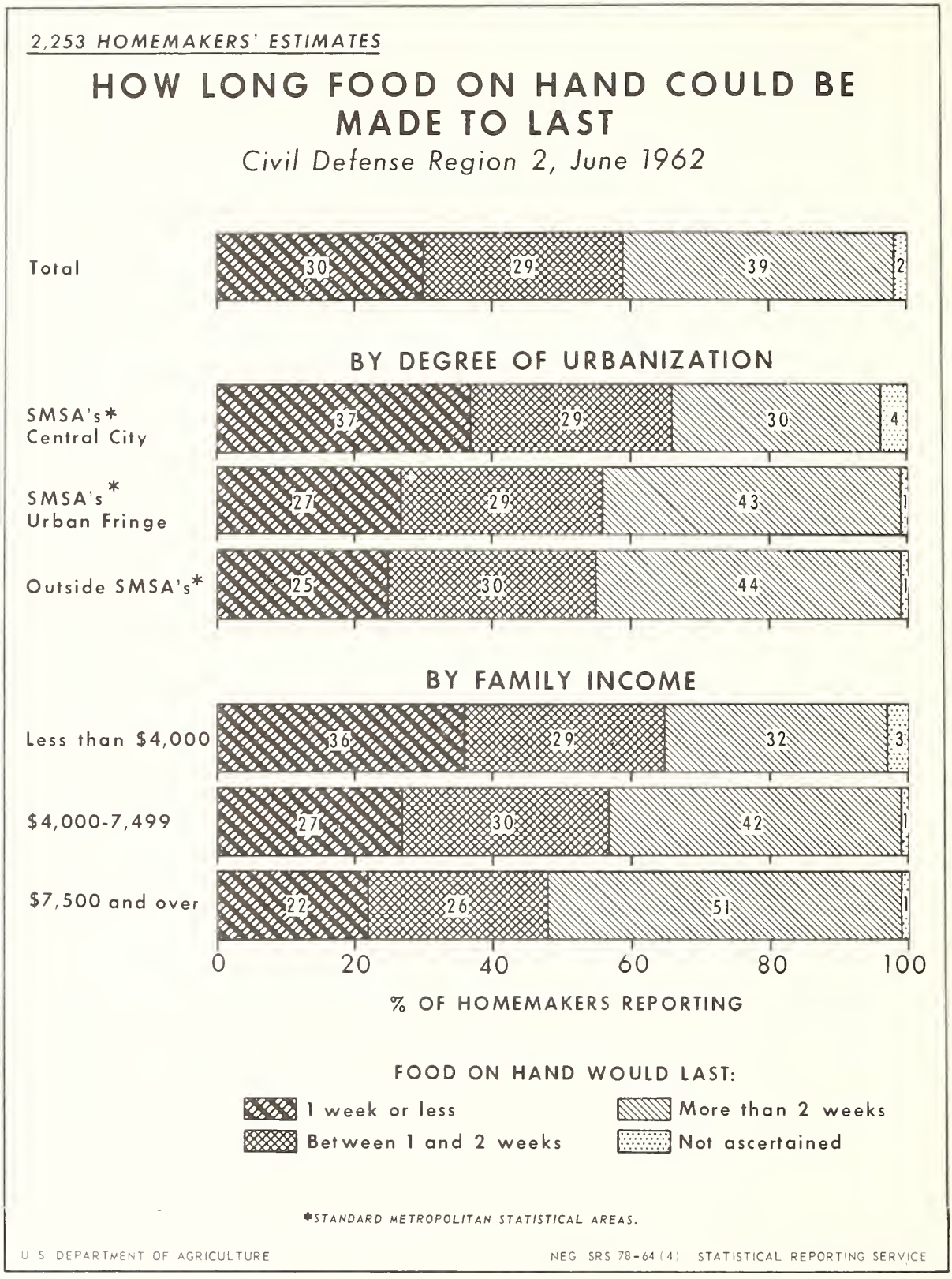
2,253 HOMEMAKERS' ESTIMATES
HOW LONG FOOD ON HAND COULD BE MADE TO LAST
Civil Defense Region 2, June 1962
Total
30
29
39
2
BY DEGREE OF URBANIZATION
SMSA's* Central City
37
29
30
4
SMSA's* Urban Fringe
27
29
43
1
Outside SMSA's*
25
30
44
1
BY FAMILY INCOME
Less than $4,000
36
29
32
3
$4,000-7,499
27
30
42
1
$7,500 and over
22
26
51
1
0
20
40
60
80
100
% OF HOMEMAKERS REPORTING
FOOD ON HAND WOULD LAST:
1 week or less
Between 1 and 2 weeks
More than 2 weeks
Not ascertained
*STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS.
U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Figure 7

would be depleted within 2 weeks compared with 61 percent for the Nation (fig. 3 and table 6). The homemakers were asked to estimate how long the food they had on hand could be made to last if the people in their households ate only enough to get by on. The reported day-by-day pattern for Region 2 followed the national pattern very closely (fig. 13).

Homemakers in the central city portions inside Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas reported a higher percentage of food depletion within a week and within 2 weeks than did those in less congested areas (fig. 7). Unlike some of the other regions, however, there was very little difference between the urban fringe inhabitants in SMSA's and those outside SMSA's in the proportion of homemakers reporting that food stocks on hand would not last beyond 2 weeks.

Compared with the country as a whole, Region 2 data showed a little lower rate of food exhaustion for households inside SMSA's, and no significant difference for households outside these metro-areas, as indicated in the table below.

	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
	U. S.	Region 2	U. S.	Region 2
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Inside SMSA's: Total	35	32	65	61
Central city	42	37	70	66
Urban fringe	27	27	59	56
Outside SMSA's	26	25	54	55
All households	31	30	61	59

From table 13.

A smaller proportion of homemakers in higher income brackets in Region 2 expected their food supply to run out within 2 weeks than those in the lower income brackets. In this respect, Region 2 follows the U. S. pattern fairly closely.

Family income	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
	U. S.	Region 2	U. S.	Region 2
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Less than $4,000 a year	38	36	67	65
$4,000 to $7,499 a year	28	27	59	57
$7,500 and over a year	23	22	54	48
All households	31	30	61	59

From table 14.

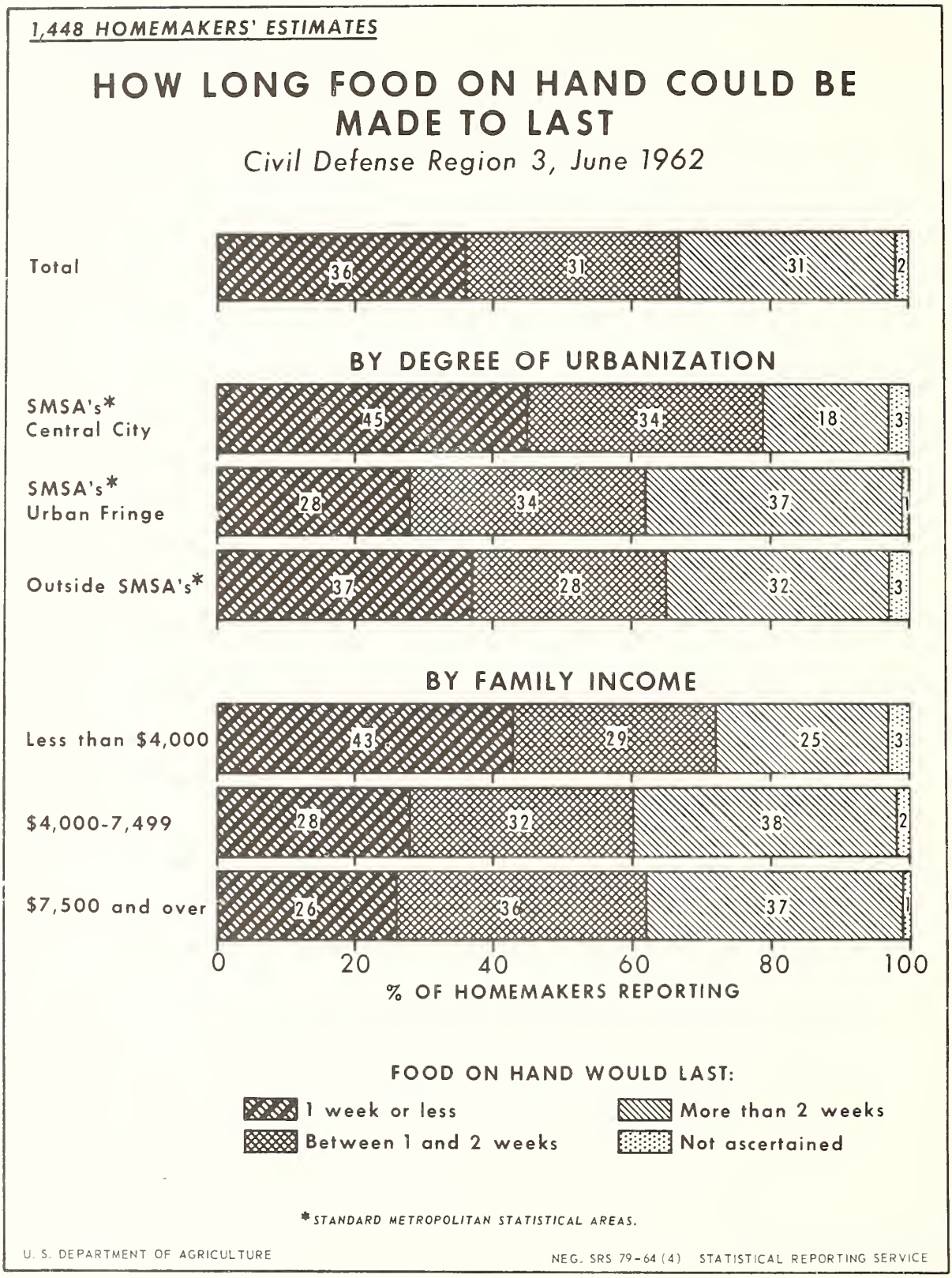
1,448 HOMEMAKERS' ESTIMATES
HOW LONG FOOD ON HAND COULD BE MADE TO LAST
Civil Defense Region 3, June 1962
Total
36
31
31
2
BY DEGREE OF URBANIZATION
SMSA's* Central City
45
34
18
3
SMSA's* Urban Fringe
28
34
37
1
Outside SMSA's*
37
28
32
3
BY FAMILY INCOME
Less than $4,000
43
29
25
3
$4,000-7,499
28
32
38
2
$7,500 and over
26
36
37
1
0
20
40
60
80
100
% OF HOMEMAKERS REPORTING
FOOD ON HAND WOULD LAST:
1 week or less
Between 1 and 2 weeks
More than 2 weeks
Not ascertained
*STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Figure 8

Among the Civil Defense Regions, Region 3 (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi) had the second highest proportion of homemakers who thought their food stocks would run out in about 2 weeks or less. The national average of 61 percent of homemakers who gave this answer was well below the regional figure of 67 percent. At any time after the first day of cut-off food supplies, the proportion of Region 3 households out of food could be expected to exceed the national average (fig. 13).

Figure 8 illustrates differences in Region 3 food depletion by degree of urbanization. This region differed in some respects from the national pattern, notably in the unusually high percentage of homemakers in the areas outside Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas who reported that they would have exhausted their food in about 2 weeks or less. The summary below and table 15 illustrate these differences.

	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
	U.S.	Region 3	U.S.	Region 3
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Inside SMSA's: Total	35	35	65	69
Central city	42	45	70	79
Urban fringe	27	28	59	62
Outside SMSA's	26	37	54	65
All households	31	36	61	67

Like their counterparts elsewhere, a larger proportion of respondents with lower incomes in Region 3 expected food depletion within about 2 weeks or less than did those with higher incomes. However, because of the relatively small number of respondents with family incomes of $7,500 or over in this region, the sampling error may be high.

	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
Family income	U.S.	Region 3	U.S.	Region 3
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Less than $4,000 a year	38	43	67	72
$4,000 to $7,499 a year	28	28	59	60
$7,500 and over a year	23	26	54	62
All households	31	36	61	67

Table 16 provides more detail on food depletion after specified periods of time have elapsed.

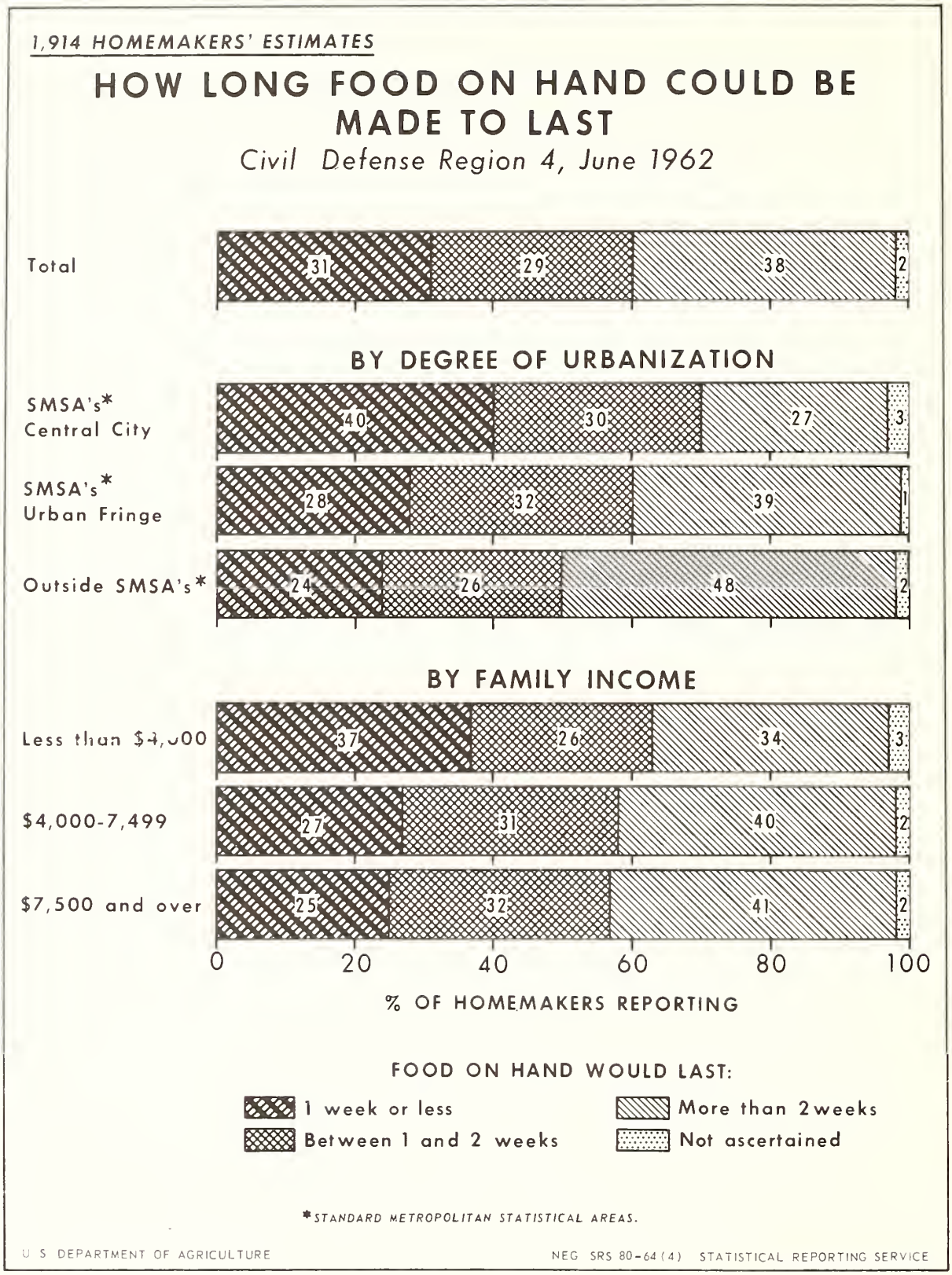
1,914 HOMEMAKERS' ESTIMATES
HOW LONG FOOD ON HAND COULD BE MADE TO LAST
Civil Defense Region 4, June 1962
Total
31
29
38
2
BY DEGREE OF URBANIZATION
SMSA's* Central City
40
30
27
3
SMSA's* Urban Fringe
28
32
39
1
Outside SMSA's*
24
26
48
2
BY FAMILY INCOME
Less than $4,000
37
26
34
3
$4,000-7,499
27
31
40
2
$7,500 and over
25
32
41
2
0
20
40
60
80
100
% OF HOMEMAKERS REPORTING
FOOD ON HAND WOULD LAST:
1 week or less
Between 1 and 2 weeks
More than 2 weeks
Not ascertained
*STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS.
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Figure 9

Civil Defense Region 4

Region 4 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) was near the midpoint of the Civil Defense Regions and very close to the national average in reported rate of food exhaustion should food supplies be cut off. When queried about the length of time current food stocks could be made to last if the people living in the household were fed only enough to get by on, 60 percent of the homemakers in this region answered that they would be out of supplies in about 2 weeks or less. This compares with 61 percent of the homemakers for the country as a whole. Except for the first few days, food depletion rates for Region 4 were close to, but never quite so high as, the national average (fig.13)

A greater proportion of households in the central city segments of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas expected to run out of food within the 2-week period than those in the urban fringes (fig. 9). Urban-fringe households, in turn, would be more likely to run out of food than those outside SMSA's. The national pattern was followed rather closely, except that householders in Region 4 living outside SMSA's were a little more optimistic than their counterparts in most of the other regions.

	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
	U.S.	Region 4	U.S.	Region 4
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Inside SMSA's: Total	35	34	65	66
Central city	42	40	70	70
Urban fringe	27	28	59	60
Outside SMSA's	26	24	54	50
All households	31	31	61	60

Additional details and comparisons with other regions are in figures 3-5 and in tables 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23.

As was true in other parts of the country, respondents in lower income groups were more likely to expect early exhaustion of food supplies than those in higher income groups. Region 4 followed the national pattern fairly closely in this respect, although differences between income groups were not quite as great in this region as in the country as a whole.

	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
Family income	U.S.	Region 4	U.S.	Region 4
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Less than $4,000 a year	38	37	67	63
$4,000 to $7,499 a year	28	27	59	58
$7,500 and over a year	23	25	54	57
All households	31	31	61	60

Additional details are in table 18.

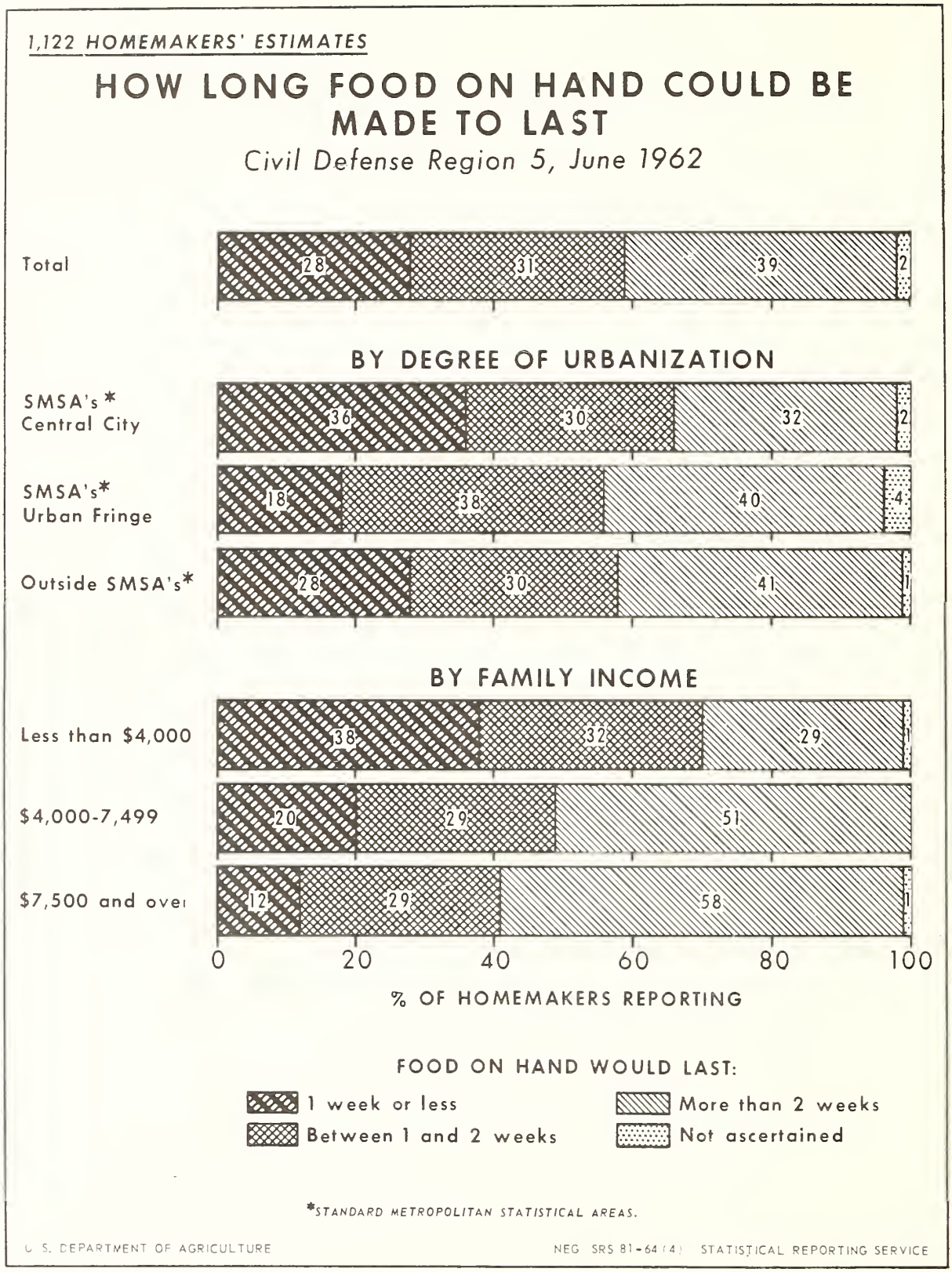
1,122 HOMEMAKERS' ESTIMATES
HOW LONG FOOD ON HAND COULD BE MADE TO LAST
Civil Defense Region 5, June 1962
Total
28
31
39
2
BY DEGREE OF URBANIZATION
SMSA's * Central City
36
30
32
2
SMSA's* Urban Fringe
18
38
40
4
Outside SMSA's*
28
30
41
1
BY FAMILY INCOME
Less than $4,000
38
32
29
1
$4,000-7,499
20
29
51
$7,500 and over
12
29
58
1
0
20
40
60
80
100
% OF HOMEMAKERS REPORTING
FOOD ON HAND WOULD LAST:
1 week or less
Between 1 and 2 weeks
More than 2 weeks
Not ascertained
*STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Figure 10

Civil Defense Region 5

On the whole, the southwestern Civil Defense Region--Region 5 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) could be regarded as an "average" area in rate of exhaustion of food supplies. In response to questions about how long food stocks on hand could be made to last if the people in the household were given just enough to get by on, 59 percent of the homemakers in this region gave replies ranging up to about 2 weeks. For the Nation as a whole, 61 percent of homemakers gave similar replies. In the first few days of an emergency, this region could be expected to show a slightly slower rate of food exhaustion than the national average (fig. 13).

Householders living inside Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas in this region exhibited a greater tendency to rapid food depletion than those outside SMSA's (fig. 10). However, the reported rate of food exhaustion differed less between these two groups than in many other regions, or in the Nation as a whole. The relatively small number of homemakers interviewed in the urban fringe suggests that the larger sampling error for these households be kept in mind. Data on rates of food exhaustion are in table 19 and in the table below.

	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
	U.S.	Region 5	U.S.	Region 5
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Inside SMSA's: Total	35	29	65	63
Central city	42	36	70	66
Urban fringe	27	18	59	56
Outside SMSA's	26	28	54	58
All households	31	28	61	59

Respondents in the higher income brackets in this region were much less pessimistic about running out of food than those of comparable incomes in the country as a whole, as will be seen in the table below. There is a possibility of a larger sampling error for the $7,500 and over income group because of the small number of respondents in this category.

	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
Family income	U.S.	Region 5	U.S.	Region 5
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Less than $4,000 a year	38	38	67	70
$4,000 to $7,499 a year	28	20	59	49
$7,500 and over a year	23	12	54	41
All households	31	28	61	59

Table 20 contains additional information on rates of food depletion in Region 5.

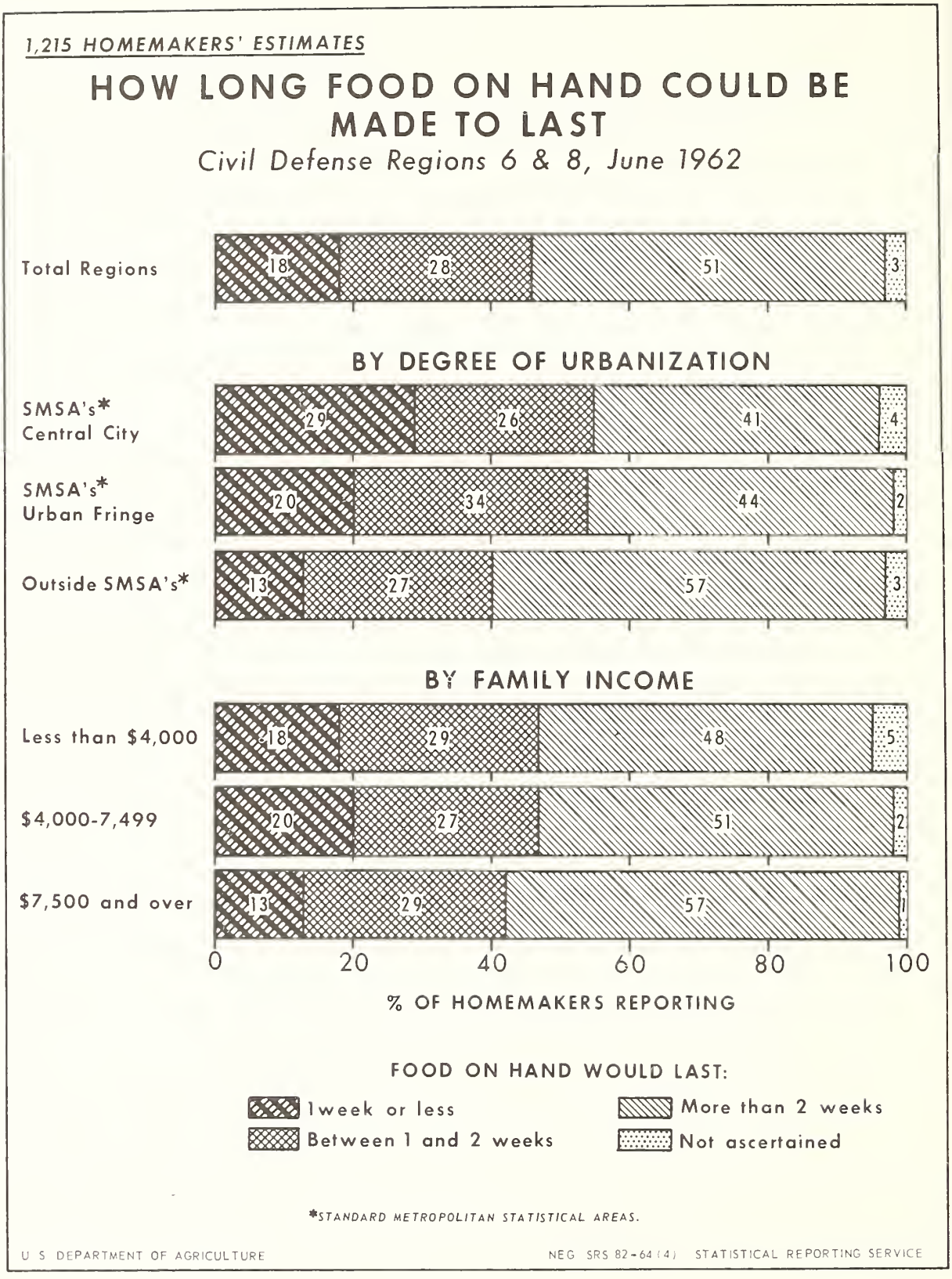
1,215 HOMEMAKERS' ESTIMATES
HOW LONG FOOD ON HAND COULD BE MADE TO LAST
Civil Defense Regions 6 & 8, June 1962
Total Regions
18
28
51
3
BY DEGREE OF URBANIZATION
SMSA's* Central City
29
26
41
4
SMSA's* Urban Fringe
20
34
44
2
Outside SMSA's*
13
27
57
3
BY FAMILY INCOME
Less than $4,000
18
29
48
5
$4,000-7,499
20
27
51
2
$7,500 and over
13
29
57
1
0
20
40
60
80
100
% OF HOMEMAKERS REPORTING
FOOD ON HAND WOULD LAST:
1 week or less
Between 1 and 2 weeks
More than 2 weeks
Not ascertained
*STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS.
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Figure 11

Civil Defense Regions 6 and 8

The decision to combine Civil Defense Region 8 (Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, and Alaska) with another region for purposes of detailed analysis was made necessary by the relatively small number of interviews assigned to it as part of the national sample. Only 420 housewives in this region were asked their opinions as to the length of time food stocks then in their homes would last if their families were given only enough to get by on. Fortunately, Region 6 (North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri) was not only adjacent but had an essentially similar food exhaustion pattern.

These two regions, separately as well as in combination, had considerably slower food exhaustion patterns than any of the other Civil Defense Regions. Only 46 percent of the homemakers interviewed in these regions expected their food stocks to be depleted in about 2 weeks or less, compared with 61 percent for the whole Nation. A day-to-day comparison of food exhaustion for Regions 6 and 8 and for the Nation is shown in figure 13.

The familiar pattern of more rapid food exhaustion inside than outside Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas was followed by combined Regions 6 and 8 (fig. 11). The number of households covered in urban fringe areas inside SMSA's, however, was relatively small (table 21).

	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
	U.S.	Regions 6 and 8	U.S.	Regions 6 and 8
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Inside SMSA's: Total	35	26	65	54
Central city	42	29	70	55
Urban fringe	27	20	59	54
Outside SMSA's	26	13	54	40
All households	31	18	61	46

As would be expected, rates of food exhaustion for the two regions combined were much lower in all income groups than the national figures. As the following table shows, the differential for households with incomes under $4,000 was especially marked:

Family income	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
	U.S.	Regions 6 and 8	U.S.	Regions 6 and 8
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Less than $4,000 a year	38	18	67	47
$4,000 to $7,499 a year	28	20	59	47
$7,500 and over a year	23	13	54	42
All households	31	18	61	46

From table 22.

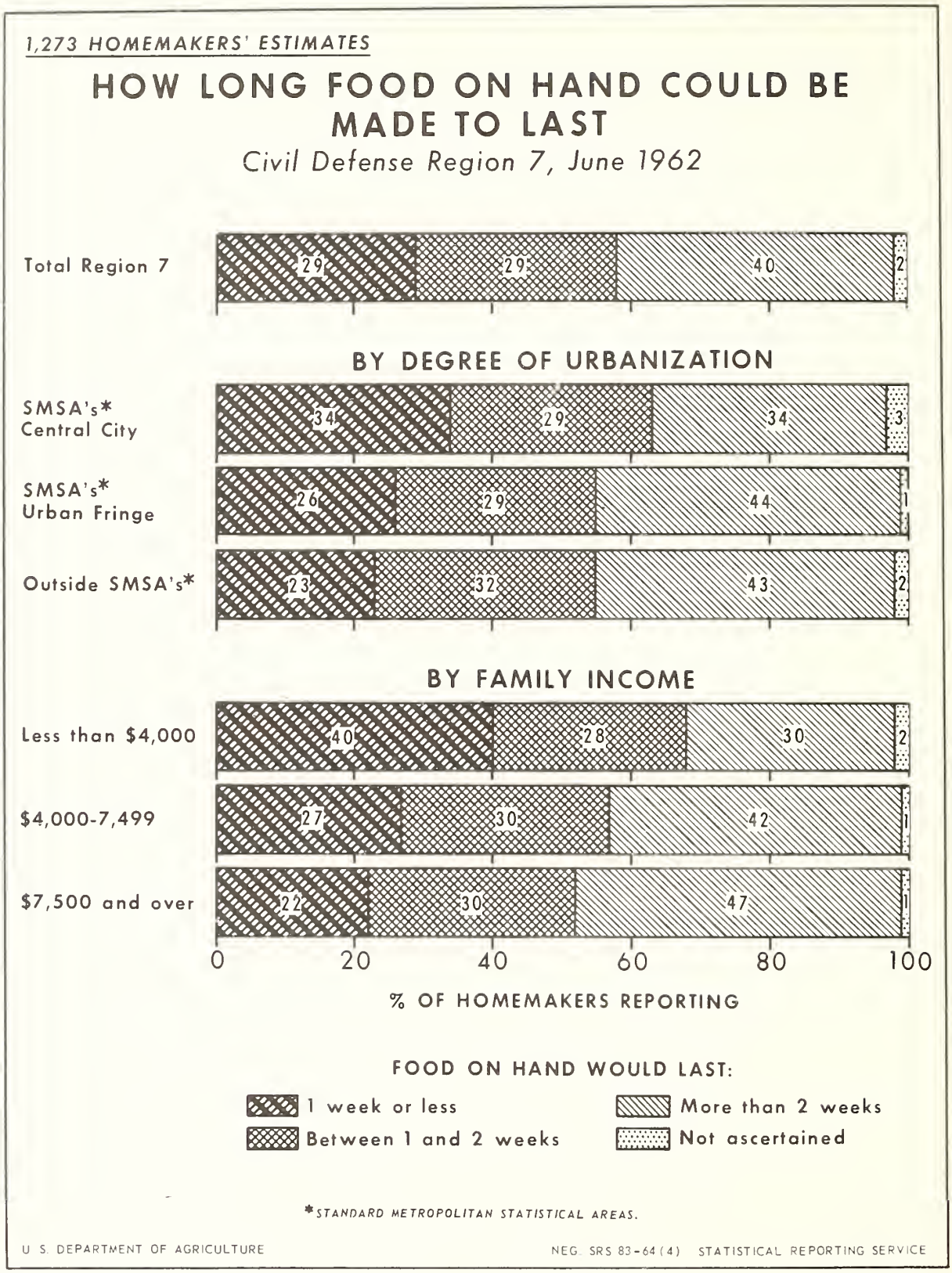
1,273 HOMEMAKERS' ESTIMATES
HOW LONG FOOD ON HAND COULD BE MADE TO LAST
Civil Defense Region 7, June 1962
Total Region 7
29
29
40
2
BY DEGREE OF URBANIZATION
SMSA's* Central City
34
29
34
3
SMSA's* Urban Fringe
26
29
44
1
Outside SMSA's*
23
32
43
2
BY FAMILY INCOME
Less than $4,000
40
28
30
2
$4,000-7,499
27
30
42
1
$7,500 and over
22
30
47
1
0
20
40
60
80
100
% OF HOMEMAKERS REPORTING
FOOD ON HAND WOULD LAST:
1 week or less
Between 1 and 2 weeks
More than 2 weeks
Not ascertained
*STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Figure 12

Civil Defense Region 7

The rate of food stock depletion in Civil Defense Region 7 (California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and Hawaii), was reported to be slightly slower than that for the Nation as a whole. A day-to-day analysis of replies by homemakers in Region 7 when they were asked how long they could make food stocks stretch showed a slightly smaller proportion in the shorter time ranges than was true for the Nation (fig. 13). Answers of 58 percent of the homemakers ranged from less than a day through about 2 weeks. This compared to 61 percent for the whole country.

Following the national pattern, dwellers in the central city portions of Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas would run out of food faster than those in less congested parts. In general, homemakers living inside the SMSA's in Region 7 reported a slower depletion rate than their counterparts in other parts of the country, while homemakers living outside SMSA's reported a depletion rate fairly close to that of the country as a whole (table 23).

	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
	U.S.	Region 7	U.S.	Region 7
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Inside SMSA's: Total	35	30	65	59
Central city	42	34	70	63
Urban fringe	27	26	59	55
Outside SMSA's	26	23	54	55
All households	31	29	61	58

Food exhaustion pattern in Region 7 by income groups followed the national pattern quite closely, with food depletion rates decreasing as income increased (fig. 12).

Family income	Homemakers who estimated food on hand could be made to last--			
	About 1 week or less		About 2 weeks or less	
	U.S.	Region 6	U.S.	Region 7
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Less than $4,000 a year	38	40	67	68
$4,000 to $7,499 a year	28	27	59	57
$7,500 and over a year	23	22	54	52
All households	31	29	61	58

More detailed information appears in table 24.

Table 1. --Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by degree of urbanization, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	U.S. total	Households located -- Inside SMSA's			Outside SMSA's				
		Total	Central city	Urban fringe	Total	Urban	Rural		
							Total	Nonfarm	Farm
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1 day or less	2	3	4	1	2	2	1	2	1
2 days or less	5	5	8	3	4	5	3	4	2
3 days or less	8	9	12	6	6	7	6	7	4
4 days or less	12	13	17	9	9	11	8	9	5
5 days or less	16	18	23	12	13	16	11	12	8
About 1 week or less	31	35	42	27	26	32	22	24	17
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	47	51	57	43	40	47	37	40	29
About 2 weeks or less	61	65	70	59	54	61	51	55	39
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	66	70	75	65	60	67	56	60	44
About 3 weeks or less	76	80	83	77	71	77	67	72	56
About 1 month or less	86	89	90	87	81	86	79	82	70
Number of households	2/11,368	6,909	3,611	3,298	4,341	1,555	2,786	2,024	762

1/ "About 1 week or less" includes all estimates of 8 days or less; "between 1 and 2 weeks or less" includes all estimates of 12 days or less; "about 2 weeks or less" includes all estimates of 15 days or less; "between 2 and 3 weeks or less" includes all estimates of 19 days or less; "about 3 weeks or less" includes all estimates of 22 days or less; "about 1 month or less" includes all estimates of 31 days or less.

Reports of enough food to last more than 31 days were received from 12 percent of homemakers nationwide. No estimates were received from 2 percent of respondents.

2/ Includes 118 households for which degree of urbanization was not recorded.

Table 2.--Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by number of housing units in structure, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	U.S. total	Households in structures containing--					
		One housing unit			Two or more housing units		
		Total	Detached	Attached	Total	2 housing units	3 or more housing units
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	2	1	3	4	2	6
2 days or less	5	4	3	7	8	6	10
3 days or less	8	6	6	10	13	10	16
4 days or less	12	9	9	14	19	15	22
5 days or less	16	13	12	20	25	20	28
About 1 week or less	31	27	26	40	43	38	47
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	47	42	41	54	61	57	63
About 2 weeks or less	61	57	56	68	74	71	75
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	66	62	62	73	78	76	79
About 3 weeks or less	76	74	73	81	85	84	86
About 1 month or less	86	84	84	89	91	90	91
Number of households	2/11,368	8,487	7,903	584	2,836	1,083	1,753

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 45 households for which number of housing units in structure was not ascertained.

Table 3. --Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by number of housing units in structure, by degree of urbanization, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last [1]	Households located --						
	U.S. total	Inside SMSA's			Outside SMSA's		
		Total	Central city	Urban fringe	Total	Urban	Rural
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 housing unit in structure							
1 day or less	2	1	2	1	2	2	2
2 days or less	4	4	5	3	3	4	3
3 days or less	6	6	8	5	6	7	6
4 days or less	9	10	12	8	9	10	8
5 days or less	13	14	17	12	12	14	11
About 1 week or less	27	30	35	26	24	30	22
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	42	45	50	41	39	44	37
About 2 weeks or less	57	60	65	57	53	59	50
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	62	66	71	63	58	65	55
About 3 weeks or less	74	77	80	75	70	75	67
About 1 month or less	84	87	89	86	81	85	79
Number of households	[2]/8,487	4,551	1,833	2,718	3,842	1,184	2,658
2 or more housing units in structure							
1 day or less	4	5	5	3	2	3	-
2 days or less	8	9	10	5	6	7	3
3 days or less	13	14	16	8	10	10	7
4 days or less	19	20	22	12	14	15	9
5 days or less	25	26	29	16	19	20	13
About 1 week or less	43	45	49	34	35	38	25
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	61	62	65	55	53	57	40
About 2 weeks or less	74	75	76	71	67	70	55
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	78	79	80	76	71	74	60
About 3 weeks or less	85	86	86	86	80	82	74
About 1 month or less	91	91	91	93	88	90	80
Number of households	[3]/2,836	2,333	1,762	571	481	363	118

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.
2/ Includes 94 households for which degree of urbanization was not recorded.
3/ Includes 22 households for which degree of urbanization was not recorded.

Table 4.--Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by family income, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	U.S. total	Households with family income of--						Households with family income of--		
		Under $2,000	$2,000 to 3,999	$4,000 to 5,999	$6,000 to 7,499	$7,500 to 9,999	$10,000 and over	Under $4,000 2/	$4,000 to 7,499 2/	$7,500 and over 2/
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1 day or less	2	5	2	2	2	1	1	3	2	1
2 days or less	5	10	5	4	3	2	2	7	4	2
3 days or less	8	14	8	7	6	4	4	11	6	4
4 days or less	12	20	13	10	8	7	7	16	9	7
5 days or less	16	24	18	14	12	10	9	21	13	10
About 1 week or less	31	42	34	29	28	25	22	38	28	23
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	47	57	51	44	43	41	36	54	44	39
About 2 weeks or less	61	69	65	60	57	56	51	67	59	54
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	66	73	69	66	63	62	57	71	65	60
About 3 weeks or less	76	82	78	76	74	74	71	80	75	73
About 1 month or less	86	88	87	86	85	84	84	88	86	84
Number of households	3/11,368	2,072	2,225	2,390	1,304	1,182	1,006	4,297	3,694	2,188

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ For comparison with regional data.

3/ Includes 1,189 households for which no income data were obtained.

Table 5.--Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by education of homemaker, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	U.S. total	Households with homemaker who-- Never attended school	Attended grammar, didn't finish	Completed grammar school	Attended high, didn't finish	Completed high school	Attended college, didn't finish	Completed college
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	6	4	2	3	1	2	1
2 days or less	5	13	9	5	5	3	4	3
3 days or less	8	19	14	9	9	5	6	4
4 days or less	12	28	20	13	12	9	9	7
5 days or less	16	38	25	17	17	12	12	8
About 1 week or less	31	55	45	33	32	26	26	24
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	47	69	61	49	41	42	40	37
About 2 weeks or less	61	76	73	65	63	57	54	53
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	66	77	77	69	68	63	60	59
About 3 weeks or less	76	83	84	79	78	74	72	71
About 1 month or less	86	86	90	88	87	85	83	84
Number of households	2/11,368	120	1,557	1,586	2,288	3,384	1,115	726

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 592 households for which education of homemaker was not ascertained.

Table 6.--Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by Civil Defense Regions, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	U.S. total	Households in Civil Defense Region-- 1	2	3	4	5	2/6	7	2/8
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1 day or less ----------	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	1
2 days or less ---------	5	7	5	6	5	4	1	4	2
3 days or less ---------	8	12	8	10	8	6	3	7	3
4 days or less ---------	12	17	11	14	12	10	5	10	3
5 days or less ---------	16	23	14	18	16	14	7	13	8
About 1 week or less ---	31	40	30	36	31	28	18	29	16
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less ----------	47	58	45	53	45	45	31	44	31
About 2 weeks or less --	61	71	59	67	60	59	44	58	48
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less ----------	66	76	65	71	65	66	50	64	52
About 3 weeks or less --	76	84	76	80	75	76	62	76	65
About 1 month or less --	86	90	86	87	86	86	74	87	78
Number of households ---	11,368	2,143	2,253	1,448	1,914	1,122	795	1,273	420

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ See table 21 or table 22 for data on regions 6 and 8 combined.

Table 7.--Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by number of persons in the household, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	U.S. total	Households with-- 1 person	2 persons	3 persons	4 persons	5 persons	6 persons	7 persons	8 persons	9 or more persons
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1 day or less	2	6	2	2	1	2	1	2	4	4
2 days or less	5	9	5	4	3	4	3	3	8	8
3 days or less	8	14	8	6	6	6	6	8	11	14
4 days or less	12	19	11	10	9	10	10	13	14	21
5 days or less	16	23	14	14	13	14	15	19	22	27
About 1 week or less	31	38	29	30	28	30	33	35	41	48
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	47	53	44	46	44	45	51	52	52	64
About 2 weeks or less	61	66	59	60	59	60	62	64	67	75
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	66	69	63	67	65	67	66	68	71	83
About 3 weeks or less	76	77	73	78	76	78	77	79	82	89
About 1 month or less	86	84	84	87	86	87	88	88	90	92
Number of households	2/11,368	1,605	3,151	1,967	1,870	1,273	709	353	168	170

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 102 households for which number of persons was not ascertained.

Table 8.--Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by age of homemaker, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	U.S. total	Households with homemaker aged-- Under 30 years	30 to 39 years	40 to 49 years	50 to 59 years	60 to 69 years	70 years or over
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
2 days or less	5	3	4	4	5	7	6
3 days or less	8	6	7	8	9	10	10
4 days or less	12	9	11	11	13	14	14
5 days or less	16	13	15	15	17	17	18
About 1 week or less	31	29	31	29	31	34	35
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	47	45	46	44	46	50	52
About 2 weeks or less	61	60	60	58	61	63	67
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	66	67	65	64	65	68	71
About 3 weeks or less	76	79	76	74	74	78	79
About 1 month or less	86	88	86	85	84	86	87
Number of households	2/11,368	2,015	2,339	2,287	1,948	1,505	1,086

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 188 households for which age of homemaker was not ascertained.

Table 9. --Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by presence or absence of children under 14 years of age, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	U. S. total	Households -- With children present	Households -- With children not present
	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	2	3
2 days or less	5	3	6
3 days or less	8	6	9
4 days or less	12	10	13
5 days or less	16	15	17
About 1 week or less	31	31	32
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	47	47	47
About 2 weeks or less	61	60	61
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	66	67	66
About 3 weeks or less	76	78	75
About 1 month or less	86	88	85
Number of households	2/11,368	4,944	6,400

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 24 households for which presence or absence of children was not ascertained.

Table 10.--Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by day of week on which interview was made, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	U.S. total	Homemakers interviewed on--					
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	2	1	2	3	3	3
2 days or less	5	4	4	5	6	5	7
3 days or less	8	7	7	8	9	9	9
4 days or less	12	11	11	12	13	12	13
5 days or less	16	15	15	17	16	16	17
About 1 week or less	31	31	30	31	32	31	31
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	47	46	47	46	47	47	47
About 2 weeks or less	61	61	61	59	61	60	64
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	66	66	66	65	66	67	69
About 3 weeks or less	76	77	76	75	76	77	78
About 1 month or less	86	86	87	85	86	85	86
Number of households	2/11,368	2,448	2,611	2,391	1,948	1,120	553

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 38 households interviewed on Sunday and 259 households for which day of interview was not recorded.

Table 11.--CIVIL DEFENSE REGION 1 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by degree of urbanization, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Region 1 total	Households located--					
		Inside SMSA's			Outside SMSA's		
		Total	Central city	Urban fringe	Total	Urban	Rural
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	3	4	6	1	2	2	2
2 days or less	7	8	11	4	4	4	4
3 days or less	12	13	17	7	7	7	7
4 days or less	17	19	25	10	10	11	9
5 days or less	23	25	34	15	13	13	13
About 1 week or less	40	44	55	32	27	29	25
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	58	61	71	49	46	51	42
About 2 weeks or less	71	75	82	66	58	65	52
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	76	79	86	72	64	70	59
About 3 weeks or less	84	87	91	82	75	81	70
About 1 month or less	90	92	94	90	84	89	80
Number of households	2/2,143	1,667	918	749	472	203	269

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 4 households for which degree of urbanization was not recorded.

Table 12.--CIVIL DEFENSE REGION 1 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by family income, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Region 1 total	Households with family income of--		
		Under $4,000	$4,000 to 7,499	$7,500 and over
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	3	4	4	1
2 days or less	7	10	7	3
3 days or less	12	17	10	6
4 days or less	17	25	13	11
5 days or less	23	32	20	16
About 1 week or less	40	49	39	31
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	58	66	58	48
About 2 weeks or less	71	78	72	64
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	76	82	76	70
About 3 weeks or less	84	87	86	82
About 1 month or less	90	91	91	90
Number of households	2/2,143	626	746	519

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 252 households for which no income data were obtained.

Table 13.--CIVIL DEFENSE REGION 2 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by degree of urbanization, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Region 2 total	Households located--					
		Inside SMSA's			Outside SMSA's		
		Total	Central city	Urban fringe	Total	Urban	Rural
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	2	3	1	2	2	1
2 days or less	5	5	7	3	4	6	3
3 days or less	8	8	10	5	6	9	5
4 days or less	11	11	14	8	9	11	8
5 days or less	14	15	18	12	12	16	10
About 1 week or less	30	32	37	27	25	35	22
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	45	47	52	42	40	49	36
About 2 weeks or less	59	61	66	56	55	62	52
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	65	67	72	62	60	68	56
About 3 weeks or less	76	78	79	76	72	75	71
About 1 month or less	86	88	87	88	83	86	82
Number of households	2/2,253	1,519	738	781	682	200	482

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 52 households for which degree of urbanization was not recorded.

Table 14. --CIVIL DEFENSE REGION 2 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by family income, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last [1]	Region 2 total	Households with family income of -- Under $4,000	$4,000 to 7,499	$7,500 and over
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	3	1	1
2 days or less	5	6	3	3
3 days or less	8	10	6	4
4 days or less	11	15	8	6
5 days or less	14	19	12	9
About 1 week or less	30	36	27	22
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	45	54	41	34
About 2 weeks or less	59	65	57	48
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	65	70	64	54
About 3 weeks or less	76	79	76	69
About 1 month or less	86	87	86	83
Number of households	[2]2,253	826	812	389

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 226 households for which no income data were obtained.

Table 15.--CIVIL DEFENSE REGION 3 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by degree of urbanization, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Region 3 total	Households located--					
		Inside SMSA's			Outside SMSA's		
		Total	Central city	Urban fringe	Total	Urban	Rural
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	2	3	1	3	2	3
2 days or less	6	6	8	4	7	8	6
3 days or less	10	8	12	6	11	11	10
4 days or less	14	13	19	8	16	20	14
5 days or less	18	17	23	13	19	24	18
About 1 week or less	36	35	45	28	37	44	35
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	53	52	63	44	52	60	49
About 2 weeks or less	67	69	79	62	65	72	62
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	71	74	83	68	69	77	65
About 3 weeks or less	80	83	91	78	77	85	74
About 1 month or less	87	90	93	88	85	92	82
Number of households	2/1,448	546	233	313	864	266	598

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.
2/ Includes 38 households for which degree of urbanization was not recorded.

Table 16.--CIVIL DEFENSE REGION 3 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by family income, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Region 3 total	Households with family income of--		
		Under $4,000	$4,000 to 7,499	$7,500 and over
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	3	2	---
2 days or less	6	9	4	1
3 days or less	10	12	8	3
4 days or less	14	17	12	6
5 days or less	18	22	15	11
About 1 week or less	36	43	28	26
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	53	59	45	43
About 2 weeks or less	67	72	60	62
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	71	76	66	66
About 3 weeks or less	80	84	78	74
About 1 month or less	87	89	86	86
Number of households	2/1,448	817	348	159

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 124 households for which no income data were obtained.

Table 17.--CIVIL DEFENSE REGION 4 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by degree of urbanization, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Region 4 total	Households located--					
		Inside SMSA's			Outside SMSA's		
		Total	Central city	Urban fringe	Total	Urban	Rural
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	3	4	1	2	2	1
2 days or less	5	6	8	3	3	4	3
3 days or less	8	9	12	6	6	7	5
4 days or less	12	14	18	10	8	10	7
5 days or less	16	19	24	14	11	16	8
About 1 week or less	31	34	40	28	24	32	19
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	45	50	57	42	35	43	31
About 2 weeks or less	60	66	70	60	50	60	44
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	65	70	74	65	55	66	49
About 3 weeks or less	75	79	81	76	67	77	61
About 1 month or less	86	88	89	87	81	88	76
Number of households	2/1,914	1,224	649	575	677	254	423

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 13 households for which degree of urbanization was not recorded.

Table 18. --CIVIL DEFENSE REGION 4 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by family income, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Region 4 total	Households with family income of --		
		Under $4,000	$4,000 to 7,499	$7,500 and over
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	3	2	1
2 days or less	5	7	4	2
3 days or less	8	11	7	4
4 days or less	12	17	9	7
5 days or less	16	22	14	10
About 1 week or less	31	37	27	25
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	45	48	41	41
About 2 weeks or less	60	63	58	57
Between 2 and 3 weeks or or less	65	67	62	62
About 3 weeks or less	75	76	71	75
About 1 month or less	86	87	84	85
Number of households	2/1,914	651	647	379

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 237 households for which no income data were obtained.

Table 19.--CIVIL DEFENSE REGION 5 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by degree of urbanization, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Region 5 total	Households located--					
		Inside SMSA's			Outside SMSA's		
		Total	Central city	Urban fringe	Total	Urban	Rural
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	3	3	2	2	2	1
2 days or less	4	5	6	3	3	4	3
3 days or less	6	7	8	3	6	8	5
4 days or less	10	11	14	5	10	11	9
5 days or less	14	14	18	6	13	16	11
About 1 week or less	28	29	36	18	28	33	23
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	45	46	51	35	44	48	41
About 2 weeks or less	59	63	66	56	58	61	55
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	66	71	73	65	63	67	60
About 3 weeks or less	76	79	81	75	74	77	71
About 1 month or less	86	88	90	85	84	88	82
Number of households	2/1,122	462	300	162	653	290	363

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.
2/ Includes 7 households for which degree of urbanization was not recorded.

Table 20. --CIVIL DEFENSE REGION 5 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by family income, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Region 5 total	Households with family income of --		
		Under $4,000	$4,000 to 7,499	$7,500 and over
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	3	1	1
2 days or less	4	6	2	1
3 days or less	6	10	4	1
4 days or less	10	15	6	2
5 days or less	14	20	9	3
About 1 week or less	28	38	20	12
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	45	55	35	26
About 2 weeks or less	59	70	49	41
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	66	76	58	46
About 3 weeks or less	76	83	70	60
About 1 month or less	86	92	82	74
Number of households	2/1,122	574	300	149

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 99 households for which no income data were obtained.

Table 21.--CIVIL DEFENSE REGIONS 6 and 8 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by degree of urbanization, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Regions 6 and 8 total	Households located--					
		Inside SMSA's			Outside SMSA's		
		Total	Central city	Urban fringe	Total	Urban	Rural
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	1	1	1	---	1	2	*
2 days or less	1	2	3	---	1	3	*
3 days or less	3	3	4	2	2	4	1
4 days or less	4	6	8	4	3	5	2
5 days or less	7	10	11	9	5	9	3
About 1 week or less	18	26	29	20	13	19	10
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	31	40	42	37	26	33	22
About 2 weeks or less	46	54	55	54	40	47	37
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	51	59	60	57	46	52	43
About 3 weeks or less	63	69	69	70	59	62	57
About 1 month or less	75	81	82	78	72	74	71
Number of households	2/1,215	445	277	168	768	270	498

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.
2/ Includes 2 households for which degree of urbanization was not recorded.
* Denotes less than 1 percent.

Table 22.--CIVIL DEFENSE REGIONS 6 and 8 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by family income, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Regions 6 and 8 total	Households with family income of--		
		Under $4,000	$4,000 to 7,499	$7,500 and over
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	1	1	1	1
2 days or less	1	2	1	1
3 days or less	3	4	2	1
4 days or less	4	5	4	2
5 days or less	7	8	8	3
About 1 week or less	18	18	20	13
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	31	32	34	26
About 2 weeks or less	46	47	47	42
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	51	50	55	47
About 3 weeks or less	63	63	64	63
About 1 month or less	75	75	77	75
Number of households	2/1,215	474	445	209

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 87 households for which no income data were obtained.

Table 23.--CIVIL DEFENSE REGION 7 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by degree of urbanization, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Region 7 total	Households located-- Inside SMSA's			Outside SMSA's		
		Total	Central city	Urban fringe	Total	Urban	Rural
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	3	4	2	*	---	1
2 days or less	4	5	7	2	2	---	3
3 days or less	7	8	10	5	4	1	5
4 days or less	10	10	13	8	7	7	7
5 days or less	13	14	18	10	12	17	10
About 1 week or less	29	30	34	26	23	32	19
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	44	45	48	42	38	47	33
About 2 weeks or less	58	59	63	55	55	67	49
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	64	64	69	59	63	72	58
About 3 weeks or less	76	76	80	73	74	88	67
About 1 month or less	87	88	88	87	84	92	80
Number of households	2/1,273	1,046	496	550	225	72	153

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 2 households for which degree of urbanization was not recorded.

* Denotes less than 1 percent.

Table 24. --CIVIL DEFENSE REGION 7 Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, by family income, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Region 7 total	Households with family income of --		
		Under $4,000	$4,000 to 7,499	$7,500 and over
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	6	1	1
2 days or less	4	9	2	2
3 days or less	7	13	6	4
4 days or less	10	16	8	8
5 days or less	13	22	11	10
About 1 week or less	29	40	27	22
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	44	54	42	39
About 2 weeks or less	58	68	57	52
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	64	72	63	58
About 3 weeks or less	76	81	76	73
About 1 month or less	87	88	89	86
Number of households	2/1,273	329	396	384

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

2/ Includes 164 households for which no income data were obtained.

Table 25. --Homemakers' estimates of length of time food on hand could be made to last in an emergency: Cumulative percentages of survey households and persons in households whose food supplies would be depleted at selected time intervals, June 1962

Homemakers' estimates of how long food on hand could be made to last 1/	Households	Persons
	Percent	Percent
1 day or less	2	2
2 days or less	5	4
3 days or less	8	7
4 days or less	12	11
5 days or less	16	16
About 1 week or less	31	31
Between 1 and 2 weeks or less	47	47
About 2 weeks or less	61	61
Between 2 and 3 weeks or less	66	67
About 3 weeks or less	76	77
About 1 month or less	86	87
Total in sample	11,368	37,422

1/ Footnote in table 1 shows the exact number of days in each time interval.

Table 26.--Comparison of Civil Defense Regions by degree of urbanization, 1960

Civil Defense Region	Percentage of population inside SMSA's	Percentage of occupied dwellings (households)			
		Total inside SMSA's	In SMSA's		Outside SMSA's
			Central city	Urban fringe	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total United States	63	64	35	29	36
Region 1	79	81	45	36	19
Region 2	68	67	33	34	33
Region 3	42	43	22	21	57
Region 4	65	65	36	29	35
Region 5	52	52	38	14	48
Regions 6 and 8	45	45	27	18	55
Region 7	84	85	40	45	15

Percentages based on 1960 Censuses of Population and Housing.

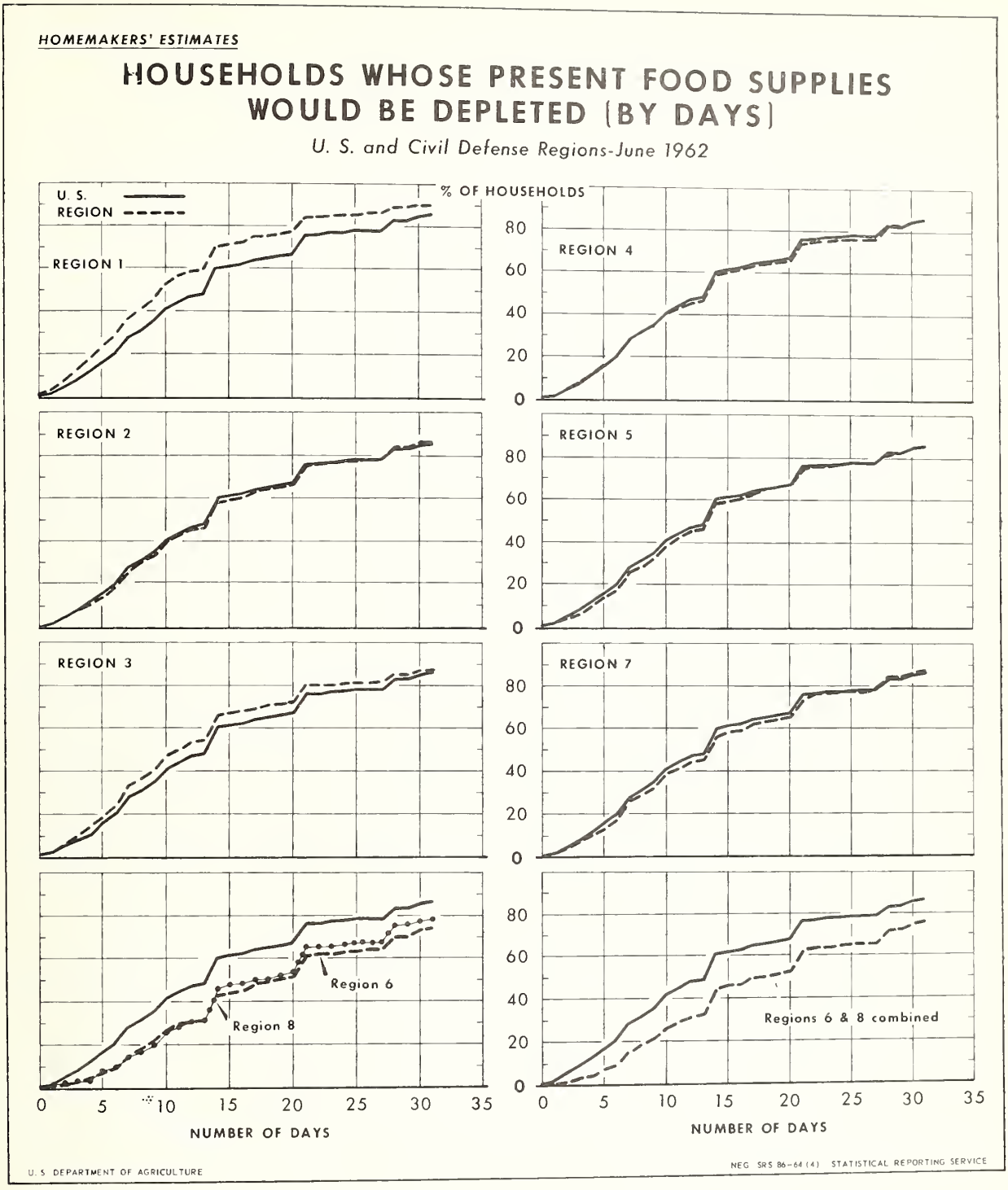
HOMEMAKERS' ESTIMATES
HOUSEHOLDS WHOSE PRESENT FOOD SUPPLIES WOULD BE DEPLETED (BY DAYS)
U. S. and Civil Defense Regions-June 1962
U. S.
REGION
% OF HOUSEHOLDS
REGION 1
REGION 2
REGION 3
REGION 4
REGION 5
REGION 7
Region 6
Region 8
Regions 6 & 8 combined
0
20
40
60
80
0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35
NUMBER OF DAYS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. SRS 86-64 (4) STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

Figure 13

The decision to obtain the data collected in this survey by asking homemakers to estimate the amount of time food stocks on hand in the home could be stretched to last was based on the results of an unpublished pilot study which had indicated the usefulness of this method.

In 1957, the Bureau of the Census and the Department of Agriculture undertook an exploratory study to evaluate different ways of estimating the number of days families could be fed on existing food supplies in homes. The methods of data collection tested included asking homemakers their opinion of the number of days the food supplies they had on hand could be stretched to feed all family members. Time estimates were also computed for the same households by dividing the total caloric value of the food on hand (as inventoried by the interviewer) by the family's daily nutritional needs. Calorie count classifications developed by the Department were used to compute the caloric value of the food on hand. The family's nutritional needs were determined by assigning "equivalent nutritional units" to each member of the household and multiplying the sum of these units by an allowance of 3,000 calories per day. Total days' supply as computed from inventory data was likely to be higher than that estimated by the homemaker, but the figures derived from the two methods correlated fairly well. The estimates derived from these two methods were somewhat closer for households with a relatively small supply of food on hand (7 days or less) than for households with larger stocks of food.

Aside from the obvious time problems and prohibitive cost that would be involved in taking a large scale inventory of household food stocks and computing caloric values for each household, there are other limitations to this method which became apparent in the pilot study. In some homes, housewives did not permit interviewers to enumerate all storage places; it is also likely that some storage places may have been overlooked or interviewers hurried into omitting items because housewives became impatient with the lengthy inventory process. In cases where housewives volunteered to call off items to the interviewer, they tended to overlook certain kinds of food or quantities that they considered to be insignificant. All these deviations, together with the fact that interviewers were not required to enumerate very small quantities of individual foods, tended to make the 1957 inventory estimates understatements of the actual amount of food in the home.

On the other hand, the length of time food might last as indicated by caloric values computed from the 1957 inventory may be unrealistically long in actual practice in some cases. For example, the inventory count includes a certain amount of inedible waste which is discarded in food preparation. Also it includes flour, cooking fats, and other foods containing a large number of calories which might be relatively useless if insufficient liquids or no cooking facilities were available to prepare them properly--a deficiency which the inventory method shares in part with the homemaker estimation method, of course. The inventory method also shares other limitations with the homemaker opinion method which could, in some cases, tend to cause overstatement of the amount of time that food on hand could be expected to last. For example, supplies of certain foods like milk for babies or special foods for invalids might be exhausted quickly in many households. As a result, some members of the family

would be very inadequately fed after short periods of time, although the others might be able to get along for much longer periods.

Another advantage of the homemaker opinion method is that the respondent's degree of ingenuity or lack of it in making the best of the food supplies on hand is taken into account. This, of course, would in no way be reflected in the calorie inventory method.

Because accurate results could not necessarily be expected from the inventory method, it was decided to use the less costly and less cumbersome method of asking homemakers to estimate how long their food supplies would last.

The key question on food depletion in the 1957 pilot study had been worded as follows:

> "Suppose that for a while you couldn't get any food and had to manage on just what you have now, if every one was at home all the time and eating only enough to get along--for how many days do you think you could stretch the food you have here now? Before telling me, perhaps you'd like to look around at your shelves, refrigerator, or any other place you have food."

Responses tended to group around certain stereotyped time periods, particularly 3 days, 1 week, and 2 weeks, which contributed to the deviations between housewives' estimates and inventory counts. Pretesting for the current study showed that stereotyped responses could be lessened by asking the question on food depletion in two parts. The form of questioning used was as follows:

> "Now, I have ___ people listed as living here. Let's suppose you could not get any more food for a while and all of these people were here all the time. For how many days do you think you could feed them the kind of meals they usually eat with <u>just the food you have right now</u>?"

> "Now let's say you were feeding these people <u>only enough for them to get by on</u>. Even if you ran out of some things, do you think you could make this food last longer?" (If yes) "How much longer?"

All the other information except that on shopping for food was obtained as part of the Current Population Survey. The two questions about shopping (which preceded the questions discussed above) were:

> "How often do you usually shop for food? I mean your main shopping, not just picking up a few things."

> "When was your last <u>main</u> shopping trip for food?"

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